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MARCH 1969

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'Double Dutch take'

Geurtsen (11) beats De Bree in the NEC goal to score for DWS Amsterdam. DWS went on to win 4–0, in this Dutch League game. (UPI)

Feijenoord winger Coen Moulijn tries to outwit two AZ '67 defenders Visser and Twisk. The match at Alkmaar ended in a 1–1 draw to keep up the Feijenoord challenge at the top of the Dutch First Division. (UPI)

THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE

World Soccer

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Editor:
JACK ROLLIN

FRONT COVER PICTURE

Action from a Football League Division I match earlier this season between Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal. Peter Collins is the pictured Spurs player, in a race for possession with George Graham. (AW)

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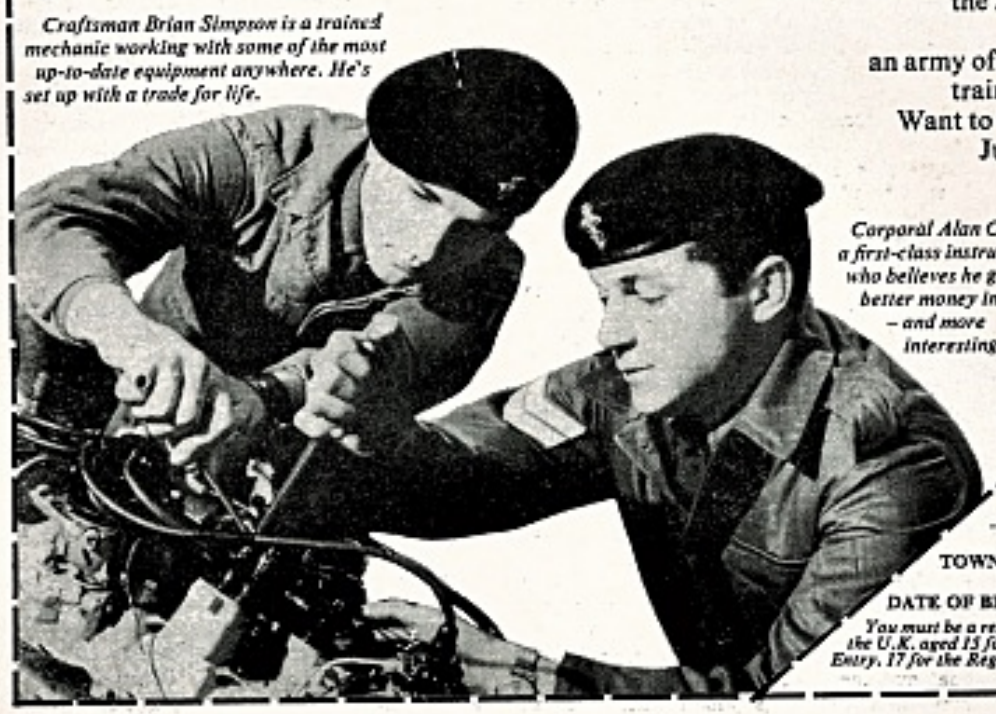

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Nine goals in eight matches

EUROPEAN LEAGUE REVIEW by ROGER MACDONALD

TORRES (Benfica).

AND here are the Italian football results:

LEAGUE DIVISION I

Fiorentina (0) 0 Roma (0) 0
Internazionale (0) 1 Lanerossi Vicenza (0) 0
Juventus (0) 1 Atalanta Bergamo (0) 0
Palermo (0) 0 Cagliari (0) 0
Pisa (0) 1 Torino (1) 1
Sampdoria (0) 1 AC Milan (1) 1
Varese (0) 1 Bologna (1) 1
Verona (1) 1 Napoli (0) 1

The *catenaccio* complex, that malaise of defensive football which has ruined one of the most formidable leagues in Europe, can be seen in all its stark reality from these results of a recent Sunday. Only nine goals scored by 16 teams, and of those 16, one was a penalty and another an own-goal.

Some of the players who were national heroes after the Azzurri's success in the European championship, such as Luigi Riva and Pierino Prati, have been pelted with tomatoes and fruit by indignant spectators. Until a recent hat-trick against Verona, Prati had scored just one goal since November 17, and Riva—top scorer with 12 goals this season—had a run of five matches without success.

AC Milan's third position in the league belies their dismal form. They have averaged only a goal a game and last season's top scorer, the same Prati, got only five in the first half of the present campaign. Their Brazilian centre-forward, Sormani, Swedish right-winger Hamrin and international inside-right Lodetti have all been in danger of losing their places. Only Rivera remains consistent, and even he has looked a little dispirited by the poor displays of his colleagues. Many of Milan's points have been won entirely by their defence—their fine goalkeeper, Fabio Cudicini, has been beaten only six times in 16 league matches.

Short of some stunning recovery, Inter Milan are now out of the championship race. Only 20,000 turned up at San Siro—which holds 90,000—to see their match against the bottom club, Lanerossi Vicenza. It took a great goal by Mazzola in the 77th minute to win the match: taking a pass from Corso, he sold two dummies at breathtaking speed, and as the defenders converged on him hit the ball perfectly just above the ground into the far corner. But Inter's hopes of a revival vanished at Naples—who are having a wretched season—where they conceded two quick goals and lost 3-1.

Juventus, with perhaps the most expensive team of all time, are in no better shape. On successive days Juve's training camp was invaded by angry fans who attacked the club manager, Heriberto Herrera—he had to be escorted from the field by police.

Herrera is now training his first-team squad behind locked doors and has barred even reporters and photographers from the ground. The Juventus board have already resisted two attempts to have Herrera dismissed, but he is not expected to stay in the job at the end of the season, even if Juventus improve on their fifth place.

Herrera's namesake, Helenio — strange how their relative news value has been turned upside down — looks certain to remain at Roma, for whom sixth place is respectable if not sensational. H.H.1 has been offered a new one-year contract worth nearly £66,000, although how Roma could afford it is beyond me. Even a game against the potential champions, Fiorentina, attracted only 28,000 spectators—who saw no goals but the Rome full-back Bet sent off for fouling Amarildo and later Amarildo himself going into the referee's notebook.

Amarildo, certainly, has nothing to reproach himself for in terms of playing skill this season. He scored a stupendous goal at Pisa, a free-kick from almost 40 yards, to win the match; and he played so well against Juventus that the other forwards found the space to score. Fiorentina won 2-1, Maraschi getting the winner, but with De Sisti superb in midfield the margin could, and should, have been much greater.

Cagliari, in contrast, have struck a bad patch. True, they still held a slim lead on goal average after 16 matches, but to score twice in five outings (albeit without defeat) is not championship form. Only Boninsegna of their redoubtable forward line still shows the panache they possessed a few months ago.

There have, at least, been two good matches in 200. At San Siro the intense cold and glacial conditions unexpectedly shook Juventus out of hibernation. They scored twice in the first ten minutes, both goals coming from Anastasi after some marvellous inter-play with Amarildo. Burgnich stuck to Anastasi like a leech, but somehow Anastasi's subtle feints and deft touches could always create a new, forward dimension at the crucial moment. In the second minute Burgnich actually outjumped his opponent but the ball still reached Anastasi's head—1-0; in the tenth Burgnich manœuvred Anastasi out of range and he still scored with the sort of right-foot shot usually reserved for a mediæval cannon. I don't suppose Burgnich found scoring Juventus's solitary goal much consolation at all.

If the championship remains in doubt, Sampdoria, Atalanta and Lanerossi are becoming detached at the bottom. It will be sad if Sampdoria go straight back to the Second Division, for Genoa really deserve a senior club. Luck, of course, always goes against a struggling side. When they played Milan an own-goal by Guido Vincenzi cost them a point, and after the match their manager, Fulvio Bernardini, slipped up in the dressing-room and was taken to hospital with fractured ribs.

SPAIN

ALTHOUGH out of the European Cup, Real Madrid grind remorselessly on to another title — still unbeaten after 21 matches. Corunna, flying back from Caracas after a whirlwind tour, found even a depleted Real too much for them at Chamartin. Sanchis was unable to turn out at the last minute, and after a quarter of an hour Vidal went off, leaving Real with ten men. At this stage, it is true, they led from a Velasquez goal, but Corunna equalised when Beci hit an unstoppable shot past Betancourt. Real redoubled their efforts, still had most of the play ... and scored the winner, a penalty by Gento.

Cordoba seemed more likely to end Real's unbeaten run, for they got two goals

in two minutes in the first half. But Gento scored quickly in the second and Zoco equalised. This remarkable revival brought the crowds out for Real's next match, home to one of their greatest rivals, Bilbao—apparently there was nearly a full house at Chamartin, which would mean a crowd of some 115,000. Bilbao brought thousands of Basque supporters with them, so the atmosphere was tremendous ... cheers and counter-cheers, demonstrations and flag-waving inside and outside the stadium. Amancio opened the scoring five minutes before half-time, but Bilbao played brilliantly in the next 20 minutes and equalised. Then Betancourt made a great save, next Velasquez and Gento missed by a whisker, and finally Grande scored a superb winning goal from Gento's defence-splitting pass.

Real rather spoilt it all with two dull, goalless draws in their following matches, but the rest of the league seem to be pursuing breathlessly, and unlikely to arrive. Barcelona looked the best bet to press Real after their startling 4-1 defeat of Atletico Madrid; but they lost 2-1 at home to the second-placed club, Las Palmas, whose winning goal came two minutes from time after a horrible defensive blunder. And not even Las Palmas can seriously see a European Cup-tie taking place in the Canary Isles next season.

PORTUGAL

NOT a happy season for Benfica, struggling to regain lost ground after a disastrous month in mid-season. They were, of course, displaced from the top of the table by Porto, who won 1-0 in Lisbon to take a two-point lead. In this match Eusebio suffered the indignity of being replaced by a substitute, namely Jacinto, in the 75th minute. Although recovered from his knee injury, Eusebio has lost his goalscoring touch — witnessed by the fact that last season he was the most prolific marksman in Europe, while this year he is not even in the top 60.

Porto have flagged a little, but Benfica seem unable to exploit the situation. When Porto could only draw with San Joanese—whose goalkeeper, Fidalgo, made some prodigious saves—Benfica dropped a point at Setubal. The home side scored in the first minute, Figueiredo threading a centre through the tangled knitting that claimed to be Benfica's defence and Jose Maria scoring with six statuettes between him and goal. Benfica equalised immediately when Toni took a free-kick, Vital made a spectacular but totally inadequate attempt at an interception, and Coluna scornfully lobbed the ball over his head.

Benfica hit five goals against San Joanese (Torres two, Graca, Toni, Eusebio) to show Porto how it could be done, but Porto scraped home against Leixoes to stay in front. Their top scorer, Pinto, put them ahead, and as Roland got a second following a corner just after half-time, the game seemed over. But Leixoes came back so strongly, scoring through centre-forward Horacio, that Porto were in desperate straits and extremely fortunate not to be beaten.

Porto did drop a point against lowly Varzim, but, again, Benfica had to be content with a goalless match at the formidable Leixoes. It was not a good day for them, however, because Eusebio had to go off after a shattering charge from Calado, and Torres, their leading scorer, was sent off the field five minutes from time.

NETHERLANDS

FC TWENTE, with their dangerous strikers Van Dyk and Palplatz, hung on grimly to the favourites, Feijenoord—still only ahead on goal average with a third of the season left. Twente got a point back by beating GVAV 4-0 (45-0 according to one beautiful agency misprint!); Van Dyk scored a hat-trick.

Feijenoord, meanwhile, had to be content with a 1-1 draw against ADO of the Hague. ADO actually went ahead on the hour when Haynen released a pass perfectly in front of Giesen, who hit his shot in full stride; and with Mansfield and goalkeeper Thie in superb form it took Kindvall until the last ten minutes to save a point. Ajax won at NEC, but they are so far behind that the only way they can stay in the European Cup is by winning it.

England, incidentally, was not the only country hit by the February freeze: the whole Dutch programme was postponed on the same weekend. And the following Sunday there was no football in Holland because of the speed-skating championships at Deventer. At least the Dutch know when NOT to make the best of a bad job.

EMPEROR'S CUP

from S. USHIKI

THE Emperor's Cup, Japanese football championship, was held from December 25 to January 1. Four top clubs of Japan Soccer League and four top university teams competed by one round knock-out system.

Yanmar Diesel FC of Osaka won the cup defeating Mitsubishi FC of Tokyo by 1-0 in the final which attracted 35,000 spectators at the National Olympic Stadium in Tokyo. The winning goal was scored by Kamamoto two minutes after the game started.

Japan Football Association nominated 40 youth players for the national team which will compete in the Asian Youth competition to be held in Bangkok in April. They were selected from high-school clubs and were all under 18 years old. Age will be a big handicap of Japanese youth, because other Asian youth teams are composed of players under 20.

From January 3 to 7, 16 youth teams assembled in Nishinomiya city to compete in the inter high-school football championship, 1968-69.

They were selected from 2,000 high-school football clubs in all parts of Japan. After the one round knock-out tournament of four successive days, Hatsushiba high-school of Osaka won the title defeating Sanyo high-school of Hiroshima by 1-0 in the final.

Roma goalkeeper Ginulfi (dark shirt) falls off his colleague Salvori with Pisa's Mascalaito close at hand. Roma won 2-0. (UPI)

from ERIC WEIL

BRAZILIAN and Argentine clubs are not participating in this year's South American club championship—the Libertadores Cup — except for the holders, Estudiantes de La Plata, who are exempt until the semi-final stage.

Brazil had always been opposed to the entry of vice-champions as it made the tournament too long. This year, with World Cup qualifying games also to consider, the Brazilian Sports Confederation put its foot down. Surprisingly, Santos FC, who had in previous years renounced their right to enter, wanted to defy their national association at first and play in the competition, but then thought it wiser not to.

Argentina's champions, Velez Sarsfield, and vice-champions, River Plate, would have entered if the competition would have been reorganised at least for 1969 and 1970 to reduce the number of games, or if it had been lengthened, but the South American Football Confederation decided on a majority vote to finish the tournament by April 30. This would have meant about 18 games in ten weeks apart from league games.

This left 16 clubs from eight countries in the tournament and first round groups, in which clubs play each other home and away, were drawn as follows:

Group 1—Deportivo Cali and Union Magdalena (Colombia), Deportivo Canarias and Deportivo Italia (Venezuela). **Group 2**—Valparaiso Wanderers and Universidad Catolica (Chile), Sporting Cristal and Juan Aurich de Chiclana (Peru). **Group 3**—Cerro Porteño and Olimpia (Paraguay), Bolivar and vice-champion to be decided (Bolivia). **Group 4**—Deportivo Quito and Barcelona (Ecuador), Peñarol and Nacional Uruguay.

As the Brazilian and Argentine clubs are the ones which draw the best gates, this is a serious blow to the tournament. Other countries are indignant and there is even talk of a soccer boycott, but who is to say that Brazil and Argentina are not right.

With the World Cup making fixtures even more overburdened next year, the Brazilian and Argentine attitude is unlikely to change, so will the tournament organisers climb down or stand to lose their strongest clubs again?

Difficulty with one continental tournament hasn't stopped the South American Confederation from creating another—and the proposal came from Argentina. It's a Cup Winners Cup, as in Europe, due to start in 1970, but who will play in it?

Brazil is the only South American country with a regular KO Cup of sorts, played for annually between the previous season's champions of each province's league. Argentina has only just started its Copa Argentina in which some of the best clubs are not participating. Will other countries follow suit? Because KO soccer has never been popular in South America.

Meanwhile the new Super Cup, being played for by former inter-continental cup winners, Racing (Argentina), Santos (Brazil) and Peñarol (Uruguay), with the winner supposed to meet either Real de Madrid or Internacionale de Milan (who decide the European section), seems to have already floundered. The three South American clubs have played each other once and no dates have been set for the return games. The tournament has not been a financial success and Santos has already said it cannot afford to play in it.

CHILE: WANDERERS TITLE WIN MAY BRING CHANGE IN TACTICS

An "outsider" won the newly reorganised Chilean national league—Wanderers, from the port of Valparaiso, one of the founder members of the Chilean Football Association. The club was formed by Englishmen in 1892. They had not won the title since 1958 and from then no provincial club had won it while Colo-Colo, Universidad Catolica and Universidad de Chile took the honours.

The point is that their playing staff was certainly not considered among the best and they showed poor technique, but on the other hand they brought something to Chilean soccer which had been absent for a long time—tough, robust play. Most of their players are over 1 metre 80 cm tall with a physique to match. They were heavily criticised all season as Chileans like technique and ball play. Wanderers' play was exactly the opposite—simple, hard,

LEFT: Velez Sarsfield (Argentina) coach Manuel Giudice chaired off the field by team captain Ovejero and goalkeeper Marin. Within a week Giudice had signed to coach San Lorenzo for the coming season. OPPOSITE ABOVE: Argentina national champions Velez Sarsfield, who will not be entering the South American club championship: Gerez (res. goalkeeper), Gallo, Solorzano, Zottola, Ovejero, Atela, Marin. Kneeling: Moreyra, Luna, Whebe, Willington, Nogara. (EW)

BOYCOTT CONTINUES

direct, long passes, hard tackling and long shots at goal.

In our "South American Survey" on Chilean soccer, published in WORLD SOCCER some time ago, we mentioned that Chilean soccer was too soft. Will Wanderers' triumph make other clubs change their ideas and contribute to a radical change in tactics just in time for the World Cup?

Meanwhile Wanderers' performance in the South American Champion Clubs' tournament will be watched with interest.

URUGUAY: THE ARMY MAJOR WHO HAS TO KEEP PENAROL ON TOP

When Roque Maspoli, their former international goalkeeper, gave up coaching Peñarol to go to Spain last June, the job was given to 38-year-old Uruguayan army major, Rafael Milans. Coaching Peñarol is like walking on a tight-rope. Staying on it and keeping Peñarol on top is what every Uruguayan—except Nacional fans—expect as a matter of course and the man in charge will get no thanks for it. Fall off it and drop a few points is courting disaster.

But the army major is not perturbed. Milans is chief of staff of the Montevideo military college and a mathematics professor. He knows how to gain respect, is a good calculator and, unusual for a South American, he gets straight to the point in few words. Milans may not be internationally known, but in Uruguay he has taken small clubs, Central and Wanderers, into the First Division, had charge of Danubio during one of their best seasons and was also national coach for a time before the last World Cup.

Peñarol won the Uruguayan championship unbeaten this season, but they are accused of playing without a plan. Milans says: "We don't need preconceived plans. We have so many experienced players who can adapt any plan during the game. Many have played over 1,000 games, half of them internationals, and there's little one can teach them."

But while the continued exodus of Uruguayan players to other countries is giving soccer officials a headache, Peñarol, like Nacional, are on the look-out for players to strengthen their staff, because the same squad will not be able to carry on forever, although Milans says he hasn't seen better players to oust veterans such as Abbadie or Gonzalves yet.

PERU: FIRST-EVER SUCCESS FOR ANOTHER SMALL TEAM

A small club with attacking ideas has also come to the fore in Peru. Juan Aurich, from the province of Chiclana, won promotion to the First Division only this season for the first time, but they tied for top place with Lima team, Sporting Cristal, coached by national team trainer and former Brazilian World Cup star, "Didi"

Aurich, coached by Argentine, Sabino Bartoli, have only a modest playing staff, but they played some attractive, orthodox, attacking soccer with a five-man forward line, finishing with a 49-29 goal average (in 26 games) in comparison to Sporting Cristal, who play 4-2-4 and had a 35-15 average.

Sporting Cristal became champions by winning the play-off 2-1, but that doesn't detract from Aurich's success with attack.

COLOMBIA: ANOTHER FIRST-TIME CHAMPION—UNION MAGDALENA

Another club to win their national championship for the first time were Union Magdalena in Colombia. To make the lengthy tournament more interesting, it was played in two halves with clubs playing each other home and away in each half.

Union Magdalena won the first half, while Deportivo Cali won the second tournament. Both winners qualified for the South American Champions Cup, but also faced each other in a two-game play-off to decide the over-all champion. Union Magdalena won the first game 1-0 and drew the second 2-2.

Union Magdalena has eight Paraguayan players on its staff who contributed in no small measure to their success, so much so that the club wants to sign more Paraguayans for this season.

ON REFLECTION BY DAVID MILLER

WHAT does the future hold for Manchester United? As Sir Matt Busby at last puts down the reins of team management, the position for England's most illustrious club is full of uncertainty. Of course, at the time of writing they may yet go on to win the FA Cup and even retain the European Cup, but to do so will require a vast improvement in recent form and the touch of rediscovered inspiration from some of their fading stars. For one thing is certain: Busby's third great side since the war is in decline, and his successor has the unenviable task of building a new one. In these competitive times this will be no easy task, even with United's resources.

Consider the facts. Stepney in goal is as fine a keeper as any in the country, but has had a less than successful season, no doubt because of the uncertainty in front of him. It was said before the World Club Championship games with Estudiantes that United were lapsing because they were keeping themselves for the big event, but subsequently they failed to raise their form as promised. Busby rested Stepney, but on bringing him back was faced with dissatisfaction from his reserve keeper Rimmer.

Lost confidence

At full-back United have problems. Brennan has seen better days, Dunne has lost confidence and Fitzpatrick has looked in that position what he is—makeshift At centre-half Foulkes has passed the finishing post for devoted service, Sadler has been tried and found wanting—and now also wants a move—and young James finds himself pitched into a side living more on reputation than performance, an unnerving experience for any player needing the skill of others around him to induce confidence.

The lack of defensive authority has several roots, but none, I think, more radical than the loss of timing and bite of that little demon Stiles, who has yet to recover his tenacity and consuming coverage of 1966-67. He may not have been very skilful, but he was, in conjunction with Crerand, the real engine of the team.

As for Crerand himself, here too we find a great player seriously in decline *when measured against the best opposition*. His lack of pace has reached that critical point where the moderate but fit opponent can counter his superb timing and judgement when the pressure is on. He finds himself with less and less time and space. This in turn means that Charlton is often at a loss for a pass in midfield, Crerand being slower to disengage in attack, obliging Charlton to attempt too often the hopeful pass that is not on. Thus possession is being wasted. This is quite apart from the fact that Charlton too is getting older, having to pace himself a little more carefully, producing fewer of those devastating bursts.

The same is true, only more so, of Law, no longer the menace of old given even the sniff of a chance. It is sad to see him battling for the ball like ordinary mortals. Kidd is having a disappointing season, and has not come on: he seems disinclined to work into the bargain. This leaves the incomparable Best, who alone cannot raise United to the heights, and Morgan, who would be a useful man in a team humming in top gear but is not, even at the price paid to Burnley, a match-winner.

I have intentionally painted a black picture, because it is easy to get carried away by the idea of United being an invincible club. I feel they have reached a point where they may be about to go through the least distinguished period since the war, unless they are able to strengthen the side by suddenly pulling off a couple of coups of outstanding players, having failed with Mike England and Allan Clarke.

Tony Dunne, the experienced Manchester United full-back who is an Eire international. (Green)

Mere teamwork

Over the years United's whole approach has been based on individual expression. Their leading individualists, Best apart, are now winding down, and there is not the opportunity for replacing them. I think United will find themselves struggling like other clubs to find really top-flight players, and will have to concentrate more and more on mere teamwork. Previously they have not been without this, but when things were not running for them they have been able to lift themselves clear by some flash of genius. But we are in an era when almost every opposing team now has some joyless antidote to genius, and United may find themselves having to fight the battle on other people's terms instead of their own.

This makes a formidable task for the man who takes over from Busby. And I do not think his job is made any easier by Busby's decision, not altogether wise in my view, to remain in the position of general manager. A Revie or a Greenwood is not going to want the job in this situation, for however much Busby may give his successor a free hand, his authority is not going to be the same with Busby sitting upstairs. Whatever happens, it is going to be interesting to see what United make of the double transition of manager and team that is now upon them.

HUNGARY

POOR YEAR GENERALLY

Leslie Vernon

THE championship trophy is safely locked away once again in the Ferencvaros boardroom, and last season has now been written off in the history of Hungarian football as a year of disappointments and setbacks.

The national team failed dismally at Moscow, the League campaign was uninspiring, attendances the worst for years, and non-participation in the two major European Cups made the weekly fare seem even more drab and monotonous than usual.

On the credit side, however, there was the Olympic victory, Ferencvaros reaching the final of the Fairs' Cup and Ujpesti Dozsa's prolific goal-scoring feats. Following a series of lengthy discussions, the Hungarian FA decided to send *two* teams to South America this winter, with the proviso that they must not play too many games, and must be back home by the middle of February. This way, last winter's over-long safaris will be avoided, and a fresher, better-prepared group of players will be available for the spring internationals.

Karoly Soos, national team manager, took the current No. 1 squad on a five-match tour. The travelling party were — Goalkeepers: Fater, Bicskei. Defenders: Novak, Solymosi, Pancsies, Ihasz, Dunai, Juhasz, Szucs. Forwards: Fazekas, Gorocs, Bene, Albert, Rakosi, Farkas, Nagy, Nosko. Their first match was at Sao Paulo versus the local team, and they drew 2-2. Fazekas opened the scoring shortly after the kick-off, but the Brazilians dominated the rest of the game, and a late Bene free-kick equalised two well-deserved home goals.

At outside-right, the 19-year-old Laszlo Fazekas promises to be the answer to a long-standing problem, and on the left flank, Janos Farkas will be given an extended run. Albert and Bene are both back again in the middle of the forward line, supported by Gorocs or Rakosi and Szucs from mid-field.

Fater is first choice in goal, and the defensive "4" are the first four names listed above. A strong enough team if the players are willing to work hard for success, and are able to reach their peak when it really matters. Soos often proclaims his favourite axiom: "Efficiency comes first, we are tired of winning 'beauty competitions' and nothing else. These tours will give me a clear indication of the fighting qualities of each player. By the end of February, I will know who is fit to wear the national jersey!"

The "A" team will also play at Belo Horizonte, Recife, Casablanca, and there might be a full international against France at Lyon. The second touring party is called "League eleven," because they found the "Under-23" tag too restrictive and the "B" label slightly derogatory. Dr. Karoly Lakat is in charge of these players: Goalkeepers: Szentmihalyi, Szarka. Defenders: Kaposzta, Keglovich, Meszoly, Bankuti, Menczel Szalai, L. Dunai. Forwards: Szoke, Branikovits, Sarkozi, Szurgent, Juhasz II, Zambo, Olah, Konrad. The "League team" left ten days earlier than the seniors, and it consists of many young promising players plus a few ex-internationals (Szentmihalyi, Kaposzta, Meszoly) who could re-establish themselves. The only "live prospect" for honours in 1969 left at home is top scorer Antal Dunai, who has been badly injured in a practice match. The "League eleven" are unbeaten so far, and they have won a trophy weighing over 20 pounds, at a tournament in Botafogo.

RESULTS

- v. Millionaros, 2-0 (Menczel, Szoke)
- v. Santa Fe, 5-2 (Szurgent 3, Menczel, Szoke)
- v. Gornik Zabrze, 2-2 (Szurgent, Szoke)
- v. Velez Sarsfield, 1-1 (Branikovits)

The 1-1 draw against the current champions of Argentina was played in Buenos Aires and was actually "worth" a defeat, because out of the five penalty kicks which decided who would play in the final of a "four-teams" tournament, Meszoly missed his spot-kick. Sarsfield met River Plate in the decider, who previously drew with Spartak Trnava, but got through also with better penalty kicks! (UEFA please note! Better than coin-tossing.)

There are 12 Ujpesti Dozsa players on tour, even young reserve forward, Juhasz, is in South America! On the other hand, MTK were not too severely handicapped for their own club tour of the "New World". The blue and whites were taking part in a "round-robin" at Mar Del Plata, in Argentina, embracing seven teams, including Estudiantes (2-2), Boca Juniors (0-1), Rapid Vienna (1-2) and Palmeiras (2-1). An average showing, but no one expects a great deal from the present MTK. The blueprint for next season has been meticulously worked out, and due to international commitments, the Cup Final was brought back again to its old date of August 20.

INTERNATIONALS

- v. Czechoslovakia (H), May 25 (W.C.)
- v. Rep. of Ireland (A), June 8 (W.C.)
- v. Denmark (A), June 15 (W.C.)
- v. Sweden (A), Sept. 3 (Friendly)
- v. Czechoslovakia (A), Sept. 14 (W.C.)
- v. Denmark (H), Oct. 22 (W.C.)
- v. Rep. of Ireland (H), Nov. 5 (W.C.)

The derby matches in the League are nicely spread out to keep the interest alive. During the spring season (Feb. 23-June 22) in March there will be Vasas v. Ferencvaros, in April Dozsa v. Vasas, and in May Ferencvaros v. Dozsa. During the autumn half (Aug. 3-Dec. 7) the return matches will be played in August and October. A total of 227 new, mainly young players are signed up for the 16 First Division teams.

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Position changes every day

World Soccer's man in America

COLIN JOSE reports

"DON'T believe anything you hear" would seem to be a good motto to keep in mind when dealing with soccer in North America.

Yes, the North American Soccer League is at it again, following upon their long list of *faux pas* in the past they have heaped even further confusion on to the long-suffering soccer fans of this continent with yet another series of contradictory statements.

On January 8—before details were finalised—the news leaked out of Atlanta that a new league had been formed by the North American Soccer League and that it would consist of just eight teams. These teams were Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Dallas, New York, Kansas City, Oakland and St. Louis.

Blessing

Since that time and following a meeting in New York City in which the United States Soccer Football Association gave its blessing to the idea, the number of interested clubs jumped to 14 and even included the Detroit Cougars, who were the first club to withdraw from the league last autumn.

All this, with the exception of the league's formation and the USSFA sanction, has turned out to be erroneous in substance.

What actually happened was that eight NASL clubs met in Atlanta to discuss the formation of a league for the coming season, the clubs already mentioned were the ones who attended, thereby signifying their interest in staying in soccer.

These clubs appointed Phil Woosnam, the general manager and coach of the NASL champions Atlanta Chiefs, as the executive director of the new league, and made plans for a schedule in which each team would play considerably fewer games than they did last season.

However, the most important fact was still to emerge, and that is that not all of the clubs present were actually in favour of the proposed set-up and their reasons only came to light at a later date.

Just three days after the meeting the Oakland Clippers announced their withdrawal from the group and were soon followed by the Chicago Mustangs. The New York Generals have also indicated that they will not be in membership unless certain changes are made.

The main problem arises from the standard of play, for the NASL has set a maximum wage of $75 per week, a ceiling below that paid to players in the American Soccer League and the German-American Soccer League.

Some idea of the players that can be obtained for such low wages can be seen by looking at the roster of the Dallas Tornado at the start of last season, and at their record at the end of the season. These boys were paid $100 a week and they found it extremely difficult to live on such a wage in the United States.

Reluctance

If such a team were to be formed in New York, Chicago, or the San Francisco-Oakland area it would be little more than a joke, for it would be below the calibre of soccer already being played there, and hence the reluctance of these three clubs to enter such a league.

In any case the Chicago and Oakland clubs have retained most of last season's players and you can be sure that well-known players like Cop, Mitic and Stojanovic are not playing for peanuts.

Although not officially announced it would seem that there is also some possibility that there will be an international mini-league similar to that run by the United Soccer Association in 1967. This competition would take place during the mid-summer break in regular league play, and although it might make money for the club owners, it would certainly point up the low calibre of the local fare to those who were not already aware of it.

In resigning altogether from the NASL the Oakland Clippers would seem to have found for themselves a much better deal, for they are now in direct affiliation with the California Soccer Football Association and the two organisations will co-sponsor international exhibition matches, with the Clippers playing against foreign opposition.

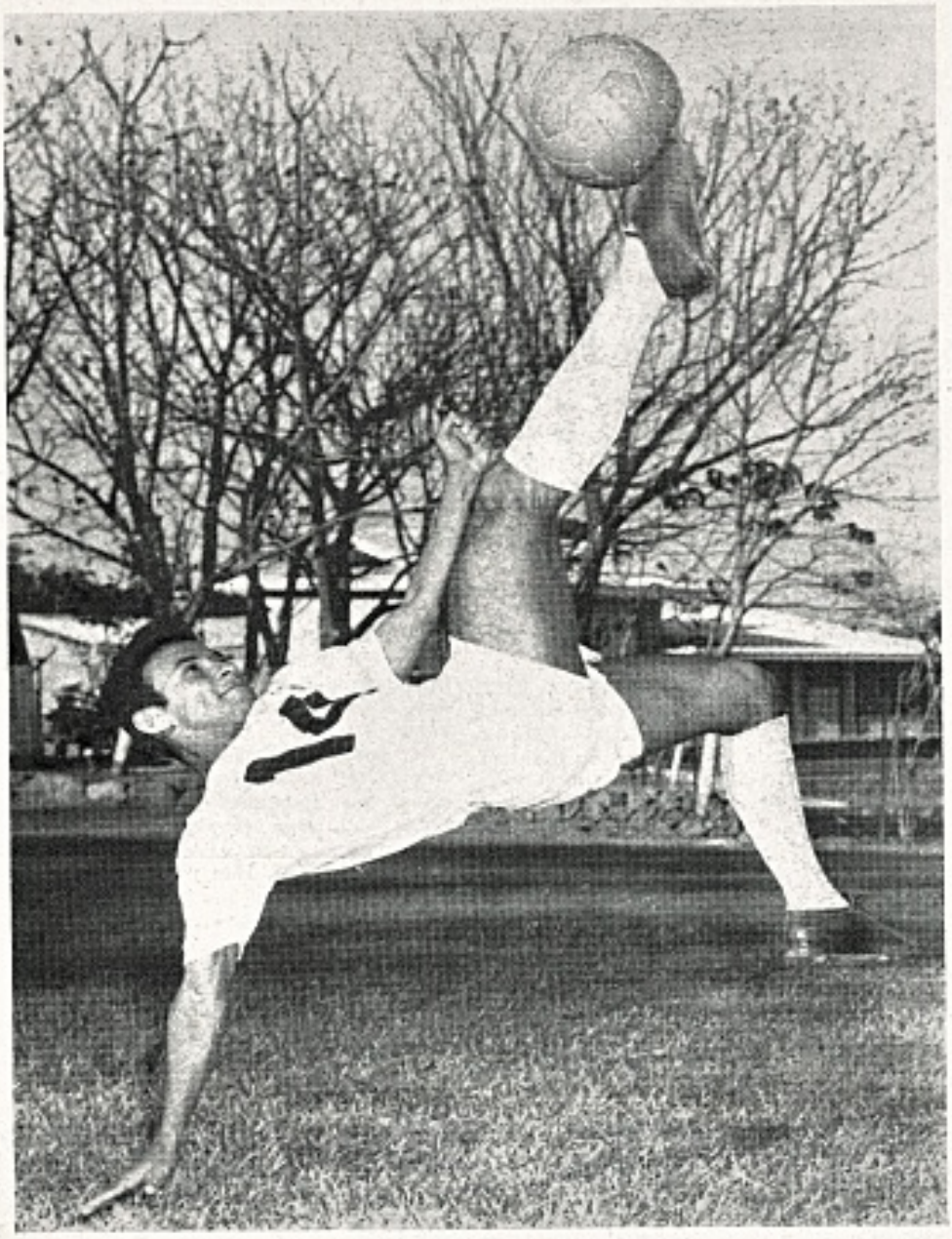
The club has also changed its name back to the original California Clippers, the reason being that the club intend to play games not only in Oakland but also in San Francisco and San Jose. Dr. Obradovic, the Clippers general manager, wants the fans to associate the club not only with Oakland but with all of northern California.

Promote

In addition to exhibition games the players will also promote soccer at the grass roots level and may well succeed, in a part of the United States where there is growing soccer interest among boys, in performing another Atlanta.

Of the five clubs remaining out of the original eight, only Atlanta have definitely

John Benegas from Alicante, Spain, was a member of the Toronto Falcons last year.



Julio (Cucaracha) Fonseca from San Pedro, Honduras, also played for the Falcons in 1968.

confirmed that they intend to take part, the others have made no definite commitment so that this operation could yet fold.

Now that active membership in the NASL has been reduced from 17 to five and perhaps as low as one, it is interesting to recall some statements made by owners before the start of the great crusade in 1967.

Remarked

Jack Kent Cooke, the owner of the Los Angeles Wolves, a club which has disappeared completely from the scene, is quoted as saying: "I don't think I have ever been more optimistic about the future of a sport." John Anderson, the president of the Detroit Cougars, remarked: "I can't see us coming close to breaking even for at least five years, but we're going to stick with it."

In Toronto the Falcons owner, Joe Peters, had no doubts that soccer would become a major sport here when he said: "There is positively no way we will fail."

At various times of late it has been reported that the Falcons would be joining the new NASL group but the club's public relations man, Jack Daley, said: "The move to continue with league competition came a little late for us."

Considering the wage restriction the same circumstances would apply to Toronto as they do to the three clubs who have already opposed it, for the class of soccer likely to be played in the NASL would be below that played in the Ontario National League and the Toronto and District League.

Elsewhere on the North American scene it is reported that Clive Toye, formerly the general manager of the Baltimore Bays, recently met with Charles A. Schiano, president of the American Soccer League. It could be that the former *Daily Express* writer is in line for an executive position with the ASL.

ITALIAN LEAGUE TABLES

SERIE "A"

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Cagliari	13	8	4	1	20
Fiorentina	13	8	4	1	20
Milan	13	7	5	1	19
Juventus	13	6	3	4	15
Inter Milan	13	5	6	4	14
Roma	13	5	3	5	13
Verona	13	4	4	5	12
Palermo	13	4	4	5	12
Bologna	13	5	2	5	12
Napoli	13	3	6	4	12
Atalanta	13	3	5	5	11
Varese	13	3	5	5	11
Vicenza	13	4	2	7	10
Torino	13	3	4	6	10
Sampdoria	13	3	3	7	9
Pisa	13	3	2	8	8

SERIE "B"

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Brescia	15	8	4	3	20
Lazio	15	6	7	2	19
Bari	15	4	10	1	18
Genoa	15	6	6	3	18
Foggia	15	4	9	2	17
Como	15	6	5	4	17
Reggina	15	4	8	3	16
Ternana	15	5	6	4	16
Livorno	15	6	4	5	16
Catania	15	4	8	3	16
Reggiana	15	4	7	4	15
Perugia	15	2	11	2	15
Catanzaro	15	4	6	5	14
Lecco	15	4	6	5	14
Spal	15	4	5	6	13
Monza	15	2	8	5	12
Padova	15	3	6	6	12
Modena	15	2	7	6	11
Cesena	15	2	7	6	11
Mantova	15	2	6	7	10

This year's First Division team positions relative to season 1967–68:

1967–68	Pts.	1968–69	Pts.
Milan	19	Cagliari	20
Roma	16	Fiorentina	20
Varese	16	Milan	19
Fiorentina	15	Juventus	15
Napoli	15	Inter	14
Juventus	14	Roma	13
Cagliari	14	Verona	12
Inter	14	Palermo	12
Torino	13	Bologna	12
Atalanta	12	Napoli	12
Bologna	12	Atalanta	11
Vicenza	12	Varese	11
Brescia	10	Vicenza	10
Sampdoria	9	Torino	10
Spal	8	Sampdoria	9
Mantova	8	Pisa	8

GOALSCORERS

12—Riva (Cagliari); 9—Anastasi (Juventus); 7—Boninsegna (Cagliari), Taccola (Roma); 6—Clerici (Atalanta), Domenghini (Inter), Traspedini (Verona); 5—Muiesan (Bologna), Maraschi and Amarildo (Fiorentina), Pellizzaro (Palermo), Bui (Verona); 4—Incerti (Atalanta), Brugnera (Cagliari), Facchetti (Inter), Prati and Sormani (Milan), Ferrari (Palermo), Piaceri and Mascalaito (Pisa).

THE most vital match of the month is undoubtedly the Leipzig clash between East Germany and Italy. As favourites in this group — completed by Wales — the Italians are expected to win both their home matches and having already beaten Wales in Cardiff, one point from this game will put their qualification beyond reasonable doubt.

At the turn of the year, Italian team chief Ferrucio Valcareggi took his squad to Mexico for two matches against the team that will be at home in 1970. Drawing 1-1 and winning the second encounter 3-2, Valcareggi not only enabled his players to preserve contact with him and each other, but also boosted confidence in their ability to cope with the conditions experienced at altitude.

The East Germans effected a change of command twelve months ago when Karoly Soos returned to Hungary and the Seeger-Wolf duo have not yet had sufficient opportunity to prove themselves. Doubtless they will continue the programme developed by the Hungarian coach who led them from the ranks of second-class nations to the point where they could give a good account of themselves against even the strongest sides. But having played only one full international, a 1-1 draw away to Poland, under the new set-up, they will have to prove themselves in competitive matches.

Dieter Erler, inside-forward from FC Karl Marx Stadt, blotted his copybook when very close to his half century of caps and has been axed for off-the-field activities, but Frenzel, Noldner, Urbanczyk and Bransch provide an experienced framework for the side.

For the Italians the key features will be their well-known defensive qualities, the talent of Rivera and the punch of Riva. With the expensive Juventus striker Anastasi finally beginning to score goals in Torino he could well earn a regular place. If Inter's Mazzola can recover his form sufficiently to merit inclusion the Italians could well field an attack more formidable than any they have had in the last decade. Italy should gain at least one point and qualify.

Noldner of East Germany.

12	England v. France	Wembley
26	Spain v. Switzerland	Valencia
26	Holland v. Luxembourg	Rotterdam*
26	West Germany v. Wales	Frankfurt
26	Yugoslavia v. Sweden	Split
29	East Germany v. Italy	Leipzig*

*—World Cup

VITAL MATCH

The Month Ahead

by ERIC BATTY

Strongest

The only other World Cup fixture of the month is the Holland-Luxembourg clash. Having won the away tie 2-0 the Dutchmen should run up a handsome tally at home with goals likely to be of importance in this group it will be vital that they do so. Bulgaria are the favourites here of course, having beaten Holland in Sofia, but if the breach between the KNVB coach Georg Kessler and the Ajax stars can be healed in time to win the return match with Yakimov & Co., the Dutch could still get through . . . on goals. Luxembourg will no doubt call upon their professionals from France and Belgium but even at their strongest should not be able to hold the Dutch attack, save in the unlikely event that Kessler and Feijenoord fall out.

The remaining fixtures are all of a preparatory nature for the vital World Cup battles to come. Five years ago it would have been customary to describe these encounters as "friendlies" though in today's conditions this would surely be a misnomer. Now, although the results of unofficial matches are not of any real importance, coaches can be sacked and players dropped after mediocre performances. The rewards for success and the penalties for failure have been emphasised out of all proportion and now, few people will take any chances.

Yugoslavia versus Sweden could be an interesting clash. Staged at Split, it is the first international staged there since the days when Croatia figured as a separate unit amongst the fixtures. Majko Mitic will doubtless be hoping to turn out something like his strongest side after a string of injuries have decimated his training squads. In the last thirteen international matches no less than 35 players have figured in Mitic's selections and only Dragan Holcer has played in all the games. His opponent in this match, Orvar Bergmark, has been considerably more fortunate although several of his best players are playing abroad and not under the jurisdiction of the Swedish FA. Yugoslavia will probably win a close game but the value of this encounter lies in the opportunity to review the casualties and assess form and condition after the winter lay-off which hampers the game in both countries.

The match at Frankfurt was originally planned to bring the Hungarians before the German public and since it was announced that Wales would provide the opposition there has been considerable criticism aimed at the DFB. For Helmut Schon a clash with Wales will be obviously be of greater value immediately prior to the visit to Hampden Park where the Scots can be counted on to put up a tough fight. Before the Scots' surprisingly easy victory over Cyprus in Nicosia it looked as if they were going to fail once more to reach the final stages but now the Germans have a fight on their hands.

A good performance against Hungary would not necessarily prepare the Schön squad for Hampden, whereas the more direct and more physical Welshmen will play a game which more closely resembles that of the Scots. Had the Hampden clash been arranged for one month earlier the Scots would have acquired a considerable advantage, but by mid-April the suspended Höttges and Müller will have been back in action for six weeks.

The match with Switzerland will not be of too much importance to the Spaniards unless they managed to beat Belgium in Brussels. Considering the mediocrity of the Spanish performance against Belgium in Madrid this seems unlikely and the criticism of Dr. Toba, former coach of the amateur team, might well have mounted to the point where he has withdrawn. For almost 20 years, the Spaniards, like the Scots, have had an abundance of talented players at their disposal but have consistently failed to produce a workmanlike team. It would be surprising if they were to succeed now where they have failed so often in the past.

Policy

Finally, the England-France match at Wembley. Not since the days of Kopa have the French really been able to test England and at Wembley they have been particularly poor. At the moment, the lack of a coherent policy with regard to selection hampers the French still further and after the home defeat against Norway morale will be a problem.

There is only one obvious move left—to include at least six and probably more of the Saint Etienne squad. Should this be done, and if the players chosen from other clubs are of the type that will blend naturally with the St. Etienne style of play then England may be more severely tested than they have been recently at Wembley where both Bulgaria and Rumania were allowed to escape with a draw.

SOCCER PROFILE — SIR MATT BUSBY

MATTHEW BUSBY was born in Orbiston, a village in Lanarkshire, Scotland, in 1910. His father was a miner; a profession in which Matt was destined to follow, albeit for a short period only.

Matt's father was killed in the First World War and his mother struggled gamely to bring up four children, among them three daughters. Matt had displayed a high degree of intelligence at school but, with the family hoping to emigrate to North America, he went to work at the Orbiston Colliery.

Fortunately his football skills attracted some attention and he was recommended to Manchester City, who offered him a trial. When City offered Matt full professional terms Mrs. Busby abandoned her plans to emigrate.

Busby didn't exactly set the scene on fire. He made his first-team début against Middlesbrough on November 2, 1929, but was in the reserves more often than not. Neighbours Manchester United did make an offer for him at one stage but couldn't afford the £150 asking fee.

But, like so many players before and after him, a change of position set his soccer career on a progressive course. Busby had been a mediocre inside-forward, yet was to develop into an outstanding wing-half.

REGULAR BERTH

Given his chance by accident he won a regular berth in the City senior team, appearing in the 1933 and 1934 FA Cup Finals. He totalled over 200 Football League appearances for City before being transferred to Liverpool in March 1936—for a reported fee of £7,000.

Busby made a further 113 League appearances for Liverpool but could never add to his solitary international cap, against Wales in 1934. The Second World War intervened and he became a physical training instructor on a troopship.

After the war Liverpool wanted Busby as a coach and offered him a five-year contract. But Manchester United were looking for a team manager and on October 22, 1945, Matt Busby was given the job.

Busby took over a club that had been literally wrecked during the war years. In 1940 their Old Trafford ground had been extensively damaged by bombs. An overdraft of some £15,000 existed. It was no easy task!

Until August 1949 United played their home fixtures at Maine Road. Old Trafford was slowly rebuilt, the overdraft wiped out and the start of an era established.

Busby was young enough to don a tracksuit and get out there with his players. He concreted the foundations of a team spirit that has proved an essential ingredient of his success story. There was no class distinction between his top players and those just setting out on their careers.

Early success came his way with victory in the 1948 FA Cup Final, a classic encounter against Blackpool. Their League record was impressive, although a championship eluded him until 1951-52. During the early stages of the following season United were at the bottom of the First Division and a new policy was implemented.

Youth was the key. Busby gambled and won; the Busby Babes were born. His Youth team won the FA Youth Cup for five consecutive seasons commencing 1953. The players produced here became the basis of one of the finest teams ever to grace British soccer.

The League championship was annexed in 1956-57, the same season they lost 2-1 to Aston Villa in the FA Cup Final. But then came Munich and once again Manchester United was in ruins.

Busby survived, although the physical and mental strain was considerable. He vowed to build another great team and prophesied that it would take ten years. That was in 1958. In 1968 Manchester United became the first English club to win the European Cup.

Matt, as usual, was true to his word. He had built another great team; ironically this United eleven was past its best when the ultimate victory at last came their way. Money was available to buy where necessary but the club's ability to produce outstanding players through its own ranks had paved the way to glory.

Eight months after "the greatest day in my life" Busby announced his intention to resign as manager of Manchester United.

Said Matt: "I found I was not spending enough time with the team, and that is something you must do if you are to be a proper team manager. I now feel it is time for a younger man to come in and take over such duties as team selection and so on."

Busby will assume the mantle of general manager. "The team manager will have no interference from me. Though I shall be available to help when required."

GREATEST PRODUCT

That last remark brought great relief to the United players, and particularly Bobby Charlton, possibly the greatest Busby product. The two had grown very close over the years and each one's success is, in some way, attributable to the other.

Nobby Stiles expressed the opinion of others: "He has been like a father to me. But he is still with the club and that is a good thing."

From the world of football came glowing tributes; a testimony to the respect and affection afforded to Busby by soccer administrators, players and supporters in all regions of the globe.

Many managers in the Football League treat Matt as the father figure, the man to go to for advice. He never let them down.

Players found Busby an inspiration. And in turn he treated them like adults and not, as some surely do, as irresponsible adolescents.

Matt Busby will never be replaced at Old Trafford and the man who takes over the manager's chair faces an unenviable challenge. At best he can only hope to emulate the achievements of a soccer statesman who has been a credit to his profession since he first kicked a football.

The accolade of knighthood was bestowed upon him in 1968. A fitting tribute to a man who for 23 years had earned Manchester United and himself an eternal niche in football's Hall of Fame.

Perhaps, in his new position, Matt will start a new era. The old one will never be forgotten.

Estudiantes in action against Inter-Milan during a friendly match played shortly after the World Club Championship. The Inter goalkeeper Girardi, thwarts an Estudiantes attack. (UPI)

BRAZIL MAY NOT COMPETE

STEADILY, as the various national championships are completed in South America, we can begin anticipating the line-up for the 1969 South American Champions Cup for clubs. In Brazil, incidentally, Santos, with victories over Internacional, Palmeiras and finally Vasco da Gama, duly won the final championship tournament between the top two clubs of the two groups of Brazil's more national championship of 1968.

Palmeiras, who had beaten Vasco da Gama 3-0 in their opening match of the tournament, should have claimed the runners-up spot without dispute but they lost their final match to the Porto Alegre club, Internacional. The latter had themselves been beaten in the second match by Rio's Vasco da Gama, so behind Santos with the six-points maximum, came Vasco, Palmeiras and Internacional with two points apiece. Not that the niceties of nominating the Brazilian runner-up are likely to be required as it is unlikely that any Brazilian club will take part in the Copa Libertadores de America this year. For the moment it seems that the Brazilians are prepared to leave the field to the Argentinians and they, with the "world club championship" wins of Racing and Estudiantes to encourage them, are keen enough!

National

Qualified, as I write, to do battle with the Argentinian trio of Velez Sarsfield, River Plate and Estudiantes, are hopefuls like Ecuador's champions, Deportivo of Quito, and their runners-up, Barcelona of Guayaquil, and Paraguay's top two—Olimpia and Cerro Porteno; and the rather more hopeful Penarol and Nacional of Uruguay. Wanderers are the somewhat surprising national champions of Chile after a season during which, in the latter stages, it often seemed as if no club *wanted* to win! The two "university" clubs, Universidad de Chile and Universidad Catolica share second place and possibly will find that the excuse for another derby match to decide qualification for the South American club competition!

The Peruvian championship, about which I wrote last month, remains interestingly in doubt. After 20 matches (each club has 26 to play in this 14-strong division) Juan Aurich, the aspirants, were level on points with Alianza, and the two clubs met in the following match. Juan Aurich gained a convincing 4-1 victory but then in their next match the leaders were themselves well beaten by Universitario of Lima (3-1). Alianza meantime won 3-0 against KDT Nacional to come level with Juan Aurich again, but a third club had joined them—Sporting Cristal, winners of their two matches against Marisal Sucre and Sport Boys. Octavio Espinosa dropped one point from their two matches but with Universitario, the winners against Juan Aurich, also beating Centro Igueno, the top (with just four matches to play) is tighter than ever:

	Pts.
Juan Aurich	31
Alianza	31
Sporting Cristal	31
Octavio Espinosa	29
Universitario	28

There was little that was tight about space at the top of the Uruguayan table. Four points behind Penarol with two matches to play, Nacional's only chance of keeping contact with their old rivals was to win the penultimate match when the two met at Montevideo's Centenario stadium. The first half of the season encounter had been goalless and again Nacional, despite a remarkable effort by that excellent forward, Prieto, near the end, failed to get the ball past Mazurkiewicz, who made an even more remarkable save. Penarol, on the other hand, did score this time—a single goal after 25 minutes play in the second half. And the scorer was their reliable and very popular (beyond the boundaries of Uruguay as much as within them) Ecuadorian, Spencer.

Selection

I spread myself last month about Mazurkiewicz's goalkeeping and will resist the temptation to repeat myself. It was not surprising, however, to see *France Football*'s distinguished South American correspondent, Alain Fontan, including the Penarol keeper in his 1968 Amsud imaginary selection. His full team, incidentally, in 4-3-3 formation, would be completed with a back row of Carlos Alberto (currently Brazil's captain and a player that country should surely have used in the 1966 World Cup) and three Argentinians Perfumo, Madero and Oscar Malbernat—the latter trio all known to British fans for their performances with Racing and Estudiantes against Celtic and Manchester United in the "trans-continental" club championship.

Fontan's mid-field trio are the two young Brazilians, Rivelino (22 years old) and this season's Santos "find", Clodoaldo (19), and the much more experienced Chilean, Fouilloux. Up front Fontan has Pelé, of course, and flanking the great Brazilian, Baylon and Verón, the Estudiantes player who headed the goal at Old Trafford that effectively ended Manchester United's chances of pulling back and then overhauling the Argentinian club's first-leg advantage.

Baylon is a coloured player from Peru and he, Mazurkiewicz and Fouilloux, are the only exceptions to a Brazilian-Argentinian domination of the selection—four from each country with Santos and Estudiantes supplying

three apiece. Not surprisingly, Fontan makes those clubs his first two in South America—followed by Palmeiras, Botafogo and, in fifth place, Penarol.

Not a very high regard for either individual or team play in Uruguay, and I think it is fair to accept that Uruguayan football is in, or approaching, the doldrums at the moment. Nor is it encouraging, in the long view, to hear that West German clubs are casting their eyes on some of the more promising young Uruguayan players. If any of them contact Horacio Troche, the former Uruguayan national team captain, I feel fairly certain he would recommend any who had the chance of signing for a West German club to pack their bags immediately. Troche himself was perhaps closer to the veteran stage than he would have wished when he signed for Alemannia Aachen (and, after one fairly successful season, was subsequently transferred by them to the newly promoted Second Division club, Bonner) but even so he was quite emphatic that in West Germany he was enjoying better pay and conditions generally than he had in his many years in Uruguayan football or, for that matter, in Argentinian football.

Evidenced

In West Germany there has been some loss of interest in the national league, evidenced by reduced attendances. They are still good attendances and a drop from the very high level of attendances in the first couple of seasons of the Bundesliga always seemed likely to me—and surely to most West Germans with any awareness of the realities. Here for the first time was an immediate national league championship; here were new opponents for much of each club's home fixtures.

Obviously the fans took more interest but now that the Bundesliga is an established fact—not a new thing—the attendances have settled at a lower level. They might have done so earlier had it not been for West Germany's good showing in the 1966 World Cup and they may have slumped a little more because of the national team's later flop in the European Football Championship. Clubs, at any rate, are thinking about ways of recharging spectator interest and the chance to look at a few imported players is one way. Several Europeans from other

South American Commentary
by GORDON JEFFERY

countries are now playing for West German clubs and I think we may see a few South Americans joining them soon.

Not, perhaps, many top flight Argentinians, because football fever remains high in their country, and the national championship this season was a remarkably closely contested affair. With three matches to play there was a lengthy speculation about the respective chances of River Plate, Racing and Boca Juniors; that it was a fourth club, Velez Sarsfield, who finally triumphed is a good indication of the closeness of the struggle and the unexpectedness of some of the last match results. After 12 matches, with three to play in a national championship of 16 clubs with each meeting the others once only, the top five were:

	W	D	L	Pts
Racing	7	5	0	19
River Plate	8	2	2	18
Boca Juniors	7	4	1	18
Velez Sarsfield	7	2	3	16
Rosario Central	7	2	3	16

River and Racing had home matches but against senior clubs even if neither San Lorenzo nor Estudiantes had achieved much in the national championship. Boca were playing one of the provincials—Independiente Rivadavia from the state of Mendoza. Boca's only handicap was that theirs was an away fixture. The following week River had an "easy" home match against San Martin from Tucuman, Racing were away to Colon and Boca to Independiente.

And on the last day of the season, River and Racing met whilst Boca had a gift of two points from the wooden-spoonists, Huracan — from Bahia Blanca not the well-established Buenos Aires club. There was less, as I have said, concern about Velez Sarsfield.

Yielded

Racing maintained their unbeaten record when beating Estudiantes 3-1, whilst River dropped a point against San Lorenzo (2-2) and, more surprisingly for championship hopefuls, Boca also yielded one to Rivadavia (1-1). Racing thus increased their lead to two points. Estudiantes, on goal average, edged above San Martin of Tucuman. Both clubs had seven points and the only club behind them was Huracan (Bahia Blanca) with six points!

Nor could Estudiantes have been pleased when their match against Racing ended with both Malbernat and Veron in the dressing room (sent off). Racing, three minutes from the end, also had a player sent off—Martinoli who retaliated after being badly fouled by Conigliaro who, a little fortunately, stayed on the pitch.

Velez meantime had gone quite mad—by beating Huracan (Bahia Blanca) 11-0 (they had scored 25 in their previous 12 matches). Omar Wehbe moved to the head of the goal-scorers' list by scoring five of Velez's 11 but it was the following Sunday that he scored a single goal of greater value than his previous five lumped together.

Velez made the trip to Mendoza to play Independiente Rivadavia, where and against whom Boca had dropped a vital point the previous week. The provincial side may not have been prolific scorers—eight goals in the 13 matches played before Velez appeared, but they had conceded only 22 and most of them away from home including seven against River Plate. Velez, like Boca, Colon and Los Andes of the leading clubs before them, found goals hard to get but one goal scored by Omar Wehbe from Luna's centre won them two precious points—the more precious because, with the finishing post in sight, Racing lost for the first time in the national championship!

They were the visitors to Santa Fe to play Colon, a club enjoying a good season thanks largely to their good results at home. At their Centenario Stadium they had dropped a point to River Plate (1-1) and lost to Rosario Central (0-2) but beaten Belgrano (1-0), Huracan (2-0), Bahia Blanca (3-1), Lanus (2-0) and Velez Sarsfield (3-1). Now it was the turn of Racing as Tardivo ("capped" later against Poland), Sanita, Medina and Balbuena scored the goals to which

● Continued on page 47

Cella (left) and Bedin of Inter dominate this mid-field battle. (UPI)

EUROPEAN FOOTBALL PIONEER

Tribute to VITTORIO POZZO

by BRIAN GLANVILLE

THE death of Vittorio Pozzo, at the end of last year, was barely mentioned in the British press; *The Times* did not even find him worth an obituary, amidst all those obscurely distinguished proconsular figures. Yet he was not only one of the outstanding pioneers of European football, but a devoted lover of England, even during the windy, malevolent years of Fascism; whose climate he used to the advantage of his teams.

I am reminded of his account of an incident which took place when Italy, the World Cup holders, played at Marseilles, in the 1938 tournament. Pozzo knew that a large portion of the crowd would consist of Italians who had fled the persecutions of fascism, and that a pretty ribald welcome would await his team, especially when they gave the fascist salute; the egregious custom of every Italian team before every match, in those days. He was proved right; when the right arms of his players went up into the air, there was a veritable bedlam of abuse from the stands and terraces, which lasted as long as the salute continued. At Pozzo's orders, the players at last lowered their arms then, when the abuse ceased, raised them again, keeping them in the air until at last it died out.

There is much in this incident to illustrate the contradictory nature of a man who was basically kind, generous and sympathetic. He was fiercely competitive, yet a sportsman who appreciated the sort of gestures common to the old Corinthians. He was a manifest authoritarian, capable of boasting, before the 1934 World Cup, that his players had been reduced to "a state of the purest infantilism", yet deeply attached to the democratic ways of England.

A Piedmontese, whose first love was for his native mountains, he arrived here as a young student before the First World War, and liked it so much that he defied his family by refusing to go home. When they cut off his allowance he made a living by teaching languages in the Midlands. His favourite team was the Manchester United of the era, with its famous half-back line of Duckworth, Roberts and Bell. Indeed, one may trace the origins of the successful Italian team of the 'thirties, twice winners of the World Cup, to his meetings with Charlie Roberts, so long before. One day, he waited shyly outside the Manchester United ground till Roberts emerged, and asked whether he might speak to him. Thus was initiated a series of conversations from which Pozzo derived his belief in the attacking centre-half and the use of the long ball; concepts to which he would remain faithful long after Britain had gone over to the deadening negativity of the third back game.

In Derby, he similarly made the acquaintance of Steve Bloomer, and by the time his family lured him home with a return ticket, to attend a wedding, his concept of the game was fully formed.

He was a founder of the Torino club, and one of the saddest moments of his long life was the day in May, 1949, when he was called to identify the remains of the brilliant Torino team whose aircraft crashed at Superga.

Pozzo first took charge of the Italian national team in 1912 when, after a schism in the young Federation, the President asked him at the last moment to take a team to the Stockholm Olympics, and do the best he could. The team acquitted itself decently, and Pozzo formed the friendship with Hugo Meisl, his Austrian counterpart, which would last till the latter's death, a quarter of a century later. Indeed, Pozzo arranged a friendly match against an Austrian team in Turin, the following year, to the fear and displeasure of the city Prefect; Austro-Italian relations were very tense. Pozzo, however, characteristically had his way, and the match passed off without incident.

My own first meeting with Pozzo took place in May, 1951, in the press gallery at Wembley Stadium; England were at home to Argentina. The stocky, teddy bear figure, with its bonnet of white hair, was unmistakable; and he received me very kindly, young and obscure as I was. At that time, he had been out of office for a couple of years, his reign as *commissario tecnico* of the Italian team having lasted for over 20 unbroken years, and in those that followed, he was always eager for acknowledgement. There was a simple, not displeasing, vanity about him, clearly expressed in the multiplicity of photographs of himself which littered the handsome pages of his "memorial" volume, *Campioni del Mondo*. We went together by bus out to Hendon, to meet the Argentina players, where Pozzo was received with proper deference. His connection with that country went back to the years of the Great War, whose outbreak found Torino on tour there; a tour which was thus lengthily protracted.

In 1953, when I was living in Florence, and researching a book, *Soccer Nemesis*, I travelled up to Torino to talk to him. I travelled overnight, by train, on the wooden seats of a third-class compartment, among Southerners who fed their children with what looked, in the half dark, like seaweed out of jars. I scarcely slept, yet the day I spent with Pozzo was so compelling that I never felt it. For hours we spoke, mostly in his small, book-crowded study, with its abundance of souvenirs, partly in the restaurant where he took me for an excellent lunch. It was a memorable day, and when it was over, I knew more about the origins and development of the game in Europe than any other man could have told me.

Handling Italian players was much easier then, in that climate of intense, windy chauvinism, than it would be now, though even so, there were abundant difficulties. British players, Pozzo once told me, could be dealt with collectively; Italian players had to be approached individually. If he knew that two of them had fallen out in a league match, he would deliberately put them in the same room, telling them when they complained, "I am trying to build a team. You must convince yourselves that the man is not an enemy but a friend." The following day he would look into their room and ask: "Well, cannibals, have you eaten each other yet?" The answer would be embarrassed mutterings. Pozzo's formula was never known to fail.

The Italian national team pictured at Tottenham in 1934 prior to their international against England at Highbury. From the left: Vittorio Pozzo, Bertorellini, Bertelini, Meazza, Ferraris, Sorentoni, Cunita, Orsi, Monzeglio, Ceresoli, Scopelli, Gianni Vincenzi, Puccio, Monti and Carcano (trainer). (UPI)

Bermuda won the first Caribbean and North American Youth International Soccer Tournament in Bermuda on January 1 after a thrilling 3-0 win over Haiti in the finals. Six nations took part in the competition sponsored by the Bermuda Football Association: Mexico, Haiti, Barbados, Canada, USA and Bermuda. Above the victorious Bermudians. Left to right: back row: Joseph Ferreira, Bermuda Football Association Secretary, John Nusum, Calvin Raynor, Dale Russell, Mike Glasford, Dereck Russell, Erskine Smith, Clyde Best, Graham Adams. Front row: Richard Simmons, Allan Richardson (captain), Mel Lewis, Harold Madeiros, Clarence Simons, David Frost, Eugene Ball, Roger Hunt.

Little Bermuda made big news

THIS 20 square mile British island—a mid-Atlantic dot with a population of 50,000 — continues to amaze the soccer world.

Having eliminated the US in the 1968 Olympics, Bermuda has added another honour by winning the first international youth tournament staged for Caribbean and North American countries.

Bermuda hosted five nations over the Christmas holiday season—Mexico, Haiti, Barbados, USA and Canada. They defeated Haiti 3-0 in a dramatic final at Bermuda's National Stadium on New Year's Day, to end the second year of Bermuda's climb from the bottom rungs of international soccer.

Until two years ago, Bermuda was fair game for just about any and every touring team which visited the small island. British teams were making a mockery of local elevens.

At that point, the Bermuda Football Association decided to find out whether Bermuda had any international potential or whether to steer clear of top-drawer competition. The association appealed to the Bermuda Government for support, and £3,000 was released. The association then hired Graham Adams of Plymouth, a former Aston Villa pro and one of the coaches on the 1966 North Korean World Cup squad.

Adams came to Bermuda in February, 1967, and quickly assessed the situation. "They are not fit," he said of the Bermudian players. "They can't play football unless they are in condition."

With six weeks to prepare Bermuda for an Olympic match against the United States. Adams set up a rigid training programme to get his team in shape. He ignored special training in ball skills, stating that he did not have time to teach the team the fundamentals.

Adams made no secret of the fact that he was an admirer of Alf Ramsey, coach of England's World Cup champions, and of the tested and proven 4-3-3 system.

Adams's methods paid off. The fit Bermudians ousted the United States from the Olympics, before dropping a three-match series against Guatemala.

by REGGIE SEMOS

The Bermuda team made its début in the Winnipeg Pan-American Games in 1967 and won a silver medal, losing the final game to Mexico, 4-0.

In an effort to keep Bermuda in international competition, Bermuda entered the 1970 World Cup preliminaries in Mexico. They lost twice to the United States, 6-2, 2-0, and lost and drew against Canada, 4-0, 0-0. This came as no surprise, however, considering that Bermuda is strictly amateur and the World Cup is a pro-Am event.

The Bermuda Football Association then decided to celebrate its 40th anniversary by staging the first youth international tournament in this part of the world. With a tentative agreement from FIFA to help defray expenses, and a nominal £1,500 from the Bermuda Government, the association sunk £10,000 in the venture.

The youth international attracted 14,000 spectators and almost broke even financially. The Bermuda players, all under 18, played the 4-3-3 system with discipline and precision, slicing through the fancy Mexican and Haitian 4-2-4. They disproved the theory that 4-3-3 is totally defensive. They scored 15 goals in the competition and conceded only seven.

However, Bermuda is facing one major problem. Their better players are being discovered and are turning professional.

West Ham United recently signed 17-year-old Clyde Best, Bermuda's most prolific scorer, and American clubs have signed up others. There is also talk that coach Adams will be whisked away to the big money in the US. American officials attending the youth international have been making overtures and Mexican officials have invited him to visit them.

But all this activity only serves to make the game more popular in Bermuda. Under-14 and under-11 leagues have been set up and schools have started a highly competitive, island-wide league. Every Sunday is football day for the island's senior clubs—and the sport is attracting increasing numbers of tourists.

Bermuda's soccer future would seem to be anything but dull.

Colin McAlpin's Irish News

McParland dreams of Super League

THE talk about a European Soccer League—indeed a European Super League—has died down lately though there are many people who secretly harbour ambitions and dreams about one. One such dreamer is Glentoran's new player-manager Peter McParland, the former Aston Villa, Wolves and Northern Ireland forward (on 34 occasions), who has been keen on such a League since the '50's, when he was one of the country's leading World Cup scorers in the Swedish finals of '58.

The 34-year-old Newry-born player reckons that football is progressing to such an extent in the United Kingdom that the authorities will, sooner or later, have to give serious consideration to the idea: "In England we can see about ten clubs striding ahead of the others at such a rate that they will eventually want to move into an even higher grade of football played on a more regular basis. Such clubs could combine with the other top clubs in Europe to form the Super League."

Football, as anybody with even a passing interest can see, on the domestic front is played with the idea of getting into Europe. It is the major European competitions that colour our thinking just as much, if not more so, as the Leagues and Cups at home. We have our eyes on Europe but no better means of getting the rest of us there.

Outlook

McParland can see the day when such a League is in full swing—and when at least two Irish League clubs have joined in. The recent performances of Glentoran and Linfield (the latter having reached the quarter-finals of the European Cup) indicate that with a more professional outlook on the game—with such innovations as full-time professionalism and better training methods—Ulster could be represented in the Super League. The clubs who fit into the Glentoran-Linfield bracket — progressive clubs from the smaller countries —could form the League's Second Division and have the opportunity of climbing up to the stars.

The Irish League Championship has gone to Ewan Fenton's Linfield—and what a title chase there was! Going into the vital three-game Christmas period Linfield were holding off a stiff challenge from Ards and Derry City with several other clubs coming up the table fast and threatening to overtake the leaders.

Certainly this season has seen a vast improvement in overall standards and the improvements have brought the fans back in their thousands. In Newtownards the local side had two record gates against Glentoran and Linfield and the story has been repeated throughout the League.

The Linfield breakthrough came at Christmas when Ards, infamously poor League finishers, suffered a number of shock results (particularly a draw against the improved but still lowly-placed Cliftonville and a defeat at the hands of bottom-of-the-table Portadown). Those setbacks allowed the Windsor Park club to stride into a commanding lead and hold it against Derry City who had crept up into second place almost unnoticed. The title was won by the Blues with a couple of games in hand and thanks to a fighting Seaview display by Crusaders who sank Derry's hopes with a devastating 4-1 win.

The circumstances of this game were thus: Derry had to beat Crusaders to keep within striking distance of Linfield whom they were to meet in the final League game at Brandywell Road. A win for Jimmy Hill's boys would have made them firm favourites for the trophy for they are always a difficult side to beat at home.

But on a heavy Shore Road pitch it was the Crues who played like League winners and a fantastic second-half blitz ended City's hopes. Jimmy Hill and his club officials were peeved at the thought that all three second-half Crues' goals were offside—I'll concede that perhaps one was but the two scored by centre-forward Ivan Parke, a former City player, were perfectly taken efforts.

The whole business prompted City chairman Stephen Morgan to ask his fellow directors to ask the IFA to issue instructions to linesmen that in future when they raise their flag, as one did in the case of the second and controversial Crues goal, they should keep it up until the referee sees what it's all about.

Indeed, Mr. Morgan went one better, or worse, when he said that he would insist on cross-Channel referees for City's Irish Cup games: "This was the first time for many weeks that we had a local referee and look what happened—a controversial goal that cost us the match and could have cost us the runners-up medals."

Sour grapes, Mr. Morgan, sour grapes!

Ards were, perhaps, the biggest disappointment in that their pre-Christmas form, which was excellent, was lost completely in the post-Christmas period. They are a side operating, as manager George Eastham was quick to point out, with a small pool of first team players and when one or two are injured or lose form the entire structure of the team is weakened. Quite obviously they lack finishing power in the League and as this has been a fault of some seasons' standing Eastham will need to have a good re-think about the whole approach to the game at Castlereagh Park.

If the failure of Ards was a disappointment the failure of Coleraine, winners of the Ulster Cup in such fine style, was a disaster. Transfers, injuries and inconsistencies all told against the Bannsiders and on top of their slump player-manager Bertie Peacock told me that he will, beyond question, be hanging up his boots at the season's end: "There's no question about it. I should have retired from the playing side this season but circumstances prevented it."

Surprise

The shock news from Glenavon in early January was the sacking of boss Ted Smyth. The Lurgan Glens had a poor season, finishing in the lower regions of the League for the first time in their history, but produced a surprise turnaround as soon as the genial Smyth left—they won five straight games and brought the comment from veteran skipper Wilbur Cush: "It's no reflection on Ted, it's just that with all the bad publicity the boys went out to show the critics."

Linfield's goalkeeper, Bertie McGonigal, pushes a shot round the post in the Glentoran-Linfield Irish League game at the Oval. Watching his activity is half-back Isaac Andrews and, far right, Peter McParland. The Glens won 2–1.

Rapid—with all the real stars

RAPID VIENNA are to Austria what clubs like Manchester United, Real Madrid, Benfica, Anderlecht, etc., are to their respective countries. Formed 60 years ago, they have been the most successful club in Austria's domestic history with 24 championship titles.

Last season they achieved the double, finishing seven points ahead of their nearest rivals in the League and beating Graz AK 2-1 in the Cup Final.

At the beginning of the present season they were ranked 11th in the overall European Champions Cup ratings with this record:

P 27 W 14 D 2 L 11 F 45 A 40 Pts 30

This season they have added to this with a win (3-1) and a draw (3-3) against Rosenborg Trondheim and a win (1-0) and a defeat (1-2) against Real Madrid to put them into the quarter-finals on the aways goals ruling.

Their immediate opponents are Manchester United, of course, a club they have competed with in the European Cup before on three previous occasions but never yet met in the competition.

In addition to competing in the Champions Cup, Rapid have played twice in each of the European Cup Winners and Inter-Cities Fairs Cups.

Their senior squad this term which has seen them through to the quarter-finals of the European Cup and holding second place at the half-way stage of the Austrian championship, is one of the most experienced in the country.

Goalkeeper Gerald Fuchsbichler is in his second season with the club, having been signed from his local club SV Kapfenberg. At 25 he has won full, under-23 and youth honours for his country. The full-backs are usually Walter Gebhardt (25), who came from Strassenbahn nearly four years ago, and Erich Fak (25). Both have appeared in recent Austrian internationals as has the skipper and centre-back Walter Glechner (30). Promising young 20-year-old Stefan Vasgyura has shown up well when deputising in the back division. Defensive half-back Walter Skocik (30) is another experienced Rapid defender with full Austrian international honours.

Midfield wing-half Ewald Ullmann (27), first capped in 1965, is another with a consistent record, while 21-year-old Alfred Traxler has taken advantage of his odd appearances for the past two sensons.

POTTED HISTORY OF SPORTKLUB RAPID

Founded: 1899. **Address:** Urban-Loritz Platz 5, Wien VII. **Ground:** Isbarygasse, Wien XIV. **Colours:** Green and white broad striped shirts, white shorts. **Honours:** Champions Division I: 1911-12, 1912-13, 1915-16, 1916-17, 1918-19, 1919-20, 1920-21, 1922-23, 1928-29, 1929-30, 1934-35, 1937-38, 1939-40, 1940-41, 1945-46, 1947-48, 1950-51, 1951-52, 1953-54, 1955-56, 1956-57, 1959-60, 1963-64, 1966-67, 1967-68. Mitropa Cup winners: 1930. Zentropa Cup winners. 1952. **Manager:** Rudolf Vytlacil. **Leading League scorers this season (up to winter pause):** Bjerregaard 15, Kaltenbrunner 8, Flogel 6, Grausam 6, Ullmann 2, Vasgyura 2, Skocik 1, Sondergaard 1, Fritsch 1, Opponent 1. **European Cup scorers 1968-69:** Kaltenbrunner 3, Bjerregaard 2, Lindman 2, Grausam 1.

Feature by STUART SHAW

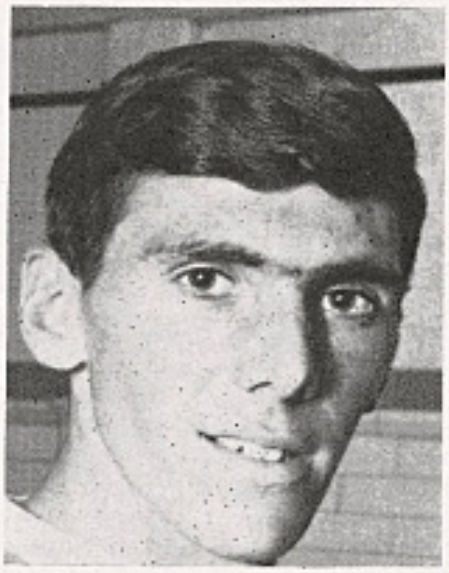
OUTSTANDING

The galaxy of talent is just as prominent in attack where Rapid bristle with outstanding players. Most experienced campaigner is Rudolf Flogel, a 29-year-old who has been capped around 40 times for his country in addition to winning "B" and youth honours. Top scorer last term was the Danish centre-forward Bjorn Bjerregaard (26) with 23 League goals. Close behind him in the scoring race with the club came Gunther Kaltenbrunner (26) with 14, formerly with Bregenz and in his second Rapid term, and Leopold Grausam, another international, aged 27, who hit 11 goals.

In the past year, Rapid have added two more foreigners in the Swede Sven Lindman (25) and the Danish international Tom Sondergaard (25). Though only able to use two foreigners per match in the League all three Scandinavians have shown up well in the European Cup encounters.

Visitors to Wembley on a pre-1966 World Cup occasion will probably recall the two goals scored by Austrian winger Anton Fritsch (25) making his début. He completes a lethal attack.

Leopold Grausam (left) of Rapid in action for his club in their home European Cup leg against Real Madrid which they won 1–0. (UPI)



Welsh hopes diminished

from PETER JACKSON

THE road to Mexico looks like something of a dead-end as far as Wales are concerned. After their October home defeat by Italy's European champions, the Welsh are left with the improbability of succeeding in East Germany in April or in Italy next November if there is to be any hope of qualifying for the 1970 World Cup finals.

The defeat by Italy was predictable enough. What wasn't so predictable was the courage displayed at Ninian Park that night by a Welsh team whose defence had been mutilated by illness and injury. Sprake ... England ... Hennessey and Rodrigues—all four were missing.

David Powell, the wing-half Sheffield United bought from Wrexham for £20,000 earlier in the season, took his international baptism as an emergency centre-half against Pietro Anastasi, at £440,000 Europe's costliest footballer. Italy won by a Luigi Riva goal to nothing and after that it's hard to be enthusiastic about Welsh chances of even threatening to get to Mexico.

For team manager Dave Bowen, the East German match at Dresden on April 13 poses problems—and by no means the least of which is that the East Germans are very much an unknown quantity.

But Bowen hopes to have some idea of the opposition before the match is played. Obviously his most opportune moment will be later next month (March) when the East Germans are home to Italy in what will be only the second match to be played in the three-nation Welsh qualifying group.

Bowen was in the Welsh side when Wales beat East Germany 4-1 at Ninian Park in September, 1957. But four months earlier in Leipzig, Wales, Bowen and all, came unstuck, 2-1. "And," recalls Bowen, "we had John Charles at centre-half for that match."

There won't be any John Charles in Dresden in April. But if Wales hasn't achieved much in recent years, they have at least been comforted by the rapid progress of such players as Powell and Swindon full-back Rodney Thomas.

Thomas looks good enough to hold the left-back position for a long time to come. Certainly he and Rodrigues would appear to be the best full-backs at Welsh command.

Up front there are the some old problems. Cliff Jones isn't getting any younger and yet there is no ready-made replacement for a player whose cap total is exceeded only by Ivor Allchurch, the record-holder with 68 Welsh international appearances.

There are still question-marks over Wyn Davies and the need for greater balance in midfield. It was from this department that West Brom's Ronnie Rees emerged as the only player likely to break down Italy's defence. And he couldn't be expected to attempt such a job on his own.

Domestically there's been a welcome resurgence — prompted by Cardiff City's up-table thrust. Before Christmas the club had its first 22,000-plus gate for five years and the 55,350 attendance for the third round Cup-tie against Arsenal was the biggest for a club match since the early 1950s.

Cardiff swept towards the top of the table during an unbeaten run of nine matches. John Toshack and Brian Clark have scored almost 70 per cent of their goals but team manager Jimmy Scoular warns of a tough programme ahead.

Canny Scot Scoular has banned use of the word "promotion" at Ninian Park. But he agrees, with some reluctance, that he might start whispering about it after Easter if Cardiff are topping the table.

The switch to midfield of right-winger Barrie Jones has contributed much to Cardiff's revival. His intelligence has created more space for Clark and Toshack.

In defence Cardiff have two of the most improved players in the Second Division. Gary Bell has made the left-back job his very own property—quite unusual when you consider he joined Cardiff from West Midlands League football as a left-winger. Steve Derrett, the 20-year-old ex-schoolboy international, stepped in at wing-half when Brian Harris was struck by injury in October. Derrett's played with such consistency that Harris can't get his place back.

Fourteen miles down the road from Cardiff, Fourth Division Newport County fight to survive. Cardiff played a friendly at Somerton Park before Christmas and all proceeds of the game went towards easing Newport's crippling financial state. The players played for nothing, the match yielded some £800 and that solved the problem of that particular week's wage bill.

But for Newport, whose gates have slumped at times to beneath 2,000, the battle for survival will be hard.

TOP: Gary Bell, a vastly improved Cardiff City full-back. (WT)
RIGHT: Prolific goalscorer Brian Clark. (U)

"VIOLENCE in football" is still a national talking point, and the latest volunteer with a ready-made plan for salvation is none other than Denis Howell, the Minister for Sport, himself!

I think it is only right and proper that such an important aspect of life as sport should have ministerial representation, and it can be safely assumed that most of the Minister's time is taken up by matters concerning the vast numbers of "amateurs" who enjoy their different kinds of sport, and regard it as a healthy recreation. For an ordinary citizen, it is almost impossible to judge how effective this comparatively newly created post is in furthering the admirable objectives and aspirations of sportsmen, whether they are Sunday golfers or Olympic "possibles".

Speaking Personally

Accept Howell's reforms

LESLIE VERNON

In my view, ideally Mr. Howell should "do" for "sport" as Miss Jenny Lee "does" for "Art"—be a spiritual inspiration, a guiding light when necessary, and most important of all, secure adequate financial help from his powerful colleagues in the Cabinet. The erudite Miss Lee is an eloquent spokesman for her causes, but Mr. Howell prefers to keep in the background, and like a good ex-referee, is hardly ever noticed.

Elevated

So it is indeed an occasion when this elevated member of the "whistlers" makes a public pronouncement and launches an appeal, no less, to "clean up soccer". Mr. Howell's solution is that managers and directors should shoulder some of the responsibility for the conduct of their players. In fact, if a player steps out of line, his club should be fined just as severely as the offender himself. This remedy has been suggested before, but coming from the Minister, it has become a point of view which cannot be ignored.

Responses to the proposition were predictable, hostile and unhelpful. Only Cliff Lloyd, secretary of the Professional Footballers' Association, supported it, saying: "I feel his views get right to the heart of the matter. Much more could and should be done at club level, and the Minister's suggestions get our fullest support." Bob Wall, Arsenal's secretary, had this to say: "When a player goes on the field he is on his own and directors have no control over him. On the field there is only one man in charge — the referee. Would anyone suggest that the referee should be fined for not doing his job properly?" I agree with Lloyd and find Mr. Wall's words typical of the muddled thinking prevalent in boardrooms up and down the country. First, Mr. Wall, no one has suggested that a director should run on the field and deal with an offending player. This is obviously the referee's job, but the right attitudes could be instilled into the players by the managers and coaches, who are, in turn, responsible to their board of directors. (Mr. Firmani is trying to teach the Charlton players how to behave, why can't the other managers do the same?)

Secondly, I would advocate, and have already done so in our February issue, that referees should be fined and suspended if they do not do their jobs properly. Bob Lord was against the idea. The chairman of Burnley said: "We don't want the Government sticking its finger in football. Nobody knows better than Mr. Howell the tensions the players are under."

Tension

Mr. Lord missed the point completely, which was, precisely, that some of the tension should be taken off the players. But Mr. Lord is the champion of the "status quo" as is Mr. Alan Hardaker, who appeared on a TV programme, discussing the ministerial recommendations.

Mr. Howell was also on the panel, and my unstinted support for him wavered slightly when he said that the referees' decisions cannot be, must not be, should not be questioned. Amen! This was in answer to Jimmy Hill, who quite rightly said that the referees could put an end to violence in football, simply by implementing the rules properly, and dealing with the players mercilessly.

The two Arsenal players that appeared in England's drab 1–1 draw against Rumania, Bob McNab (left) and John Radford. (A)

Standard

He, as an ex-player and ex-manager, knows that the players would do anything in order to win, and with the present low standard of refereeing, they are getting away with murder. His remarks were realistic, but not too popular with the rest of the gathering.

I would accept Mr. Howell's reforms. If the managers and directors would personally be involved whenever one of their players commits a misdeed, *perhaps*, eventually, there would be an improvement. Better refereeing is essential, but stiff fines for the clubs might change the cosy atmosphere of the stuffy boardrooms.

The inscrutable Sir Alf Ramsey also made a TV appearance, in which he explained why England only scored four goals in their last six matches. I was amazed to hear him say once again that one day soon, the England forward line will click, and they will score a hatful of goals. This remark has become more of a joke than a promise, and I feel that the shortcomings of the national team should be discussed in a more serious manner.

Like the good "politician" that he is, Sir Alf said that people will criticise him during the next 18 months even more vehemently than they did before the '66 World Cup, but once again his critics will be forced to eat their words.

Ability

I dislike eating paper, and in any case, I do have faith in Ramsey's ability as a manager, so I will only pose one polite question. If England's opponents are so intent on all-out defence that they will not attack even if they are losing (Ramsey's words!) then why don't England adopt a more positive policy? Why stick to the well-exposed, inflexible, slightly cautious 4-3-3? Surely against teams like Bulgaria and Rumania at Wembley, England could have played 4-2-4 or even a 3-3-4 with two wingers, two strikers and three midfield men? Even this way, the opposition could not have been outnumbered, but they could have been stretched across the width of the pitch, and kept under continuous pressure, which might have brought about a breaking point.

Obligation

In any case, the World Champions have an obligation to the rest of the world, who would slavishly copy anything we attempted. Isn't it time to start playing attractive, attacking football again?

JOHN STONE looks at the SCOTTISH ANGLE

CATCH 'EM YOUNG? MANAGERS SPEAK

THOSE eminent London soccer managers, Arsenal's Bertie Mee and Charlton's Eddie Firmani — both doing very nicely, thank you, in two of the capital's hottest soccer seats—sent shudders of fear up and down the spines of more than one Scottish director recently when news of their comments on the Scottish game wafted back across the border.

For the pair were freely quoted in the deep south as believing that unless you catch your Scots very young these days, they are simply not worth catching.

Mr. Mee says it is no longer worthwhile snapping up at random highly-priced Scottish stars who have passed their 24th birthdays.

South African Firmani, one of the most travelled managers in British football, explains why: "By that time, they seem too set in their ways to adapt successfully to the additional pace of English football."

Both these learned soccer gentlemen are quick to concede that there is always the exception to every rule—like Dave Mackay, who left Hearts for Spurs at the ripe old age of 24, and stayed to become one of Tottenham's greatest-ever buys.

But the pair are convinced that the days of dozens of Scottish stars crossing the border each season have long since departed.

They envisage Scottish imports being 17 and 18, around the age when Charlton snapped up that devastating young half-back, Alan Campbell.

There again, not everyone agrees with Messrs. Mee and Firmani.

Joe Harvey, the Newcastle manager, is one, for example, who didn't bother that Tommy Gibb, the Partick half-back dynamo, was well into his twenties when he joined the Geordies for a £40,000 fee. Gibb may be one of those exceptions, but he has most certainly been one of the huge Scottish transfer successes of recent seasons.

Yet another soccer boss from England's deep south, Crystal Palace's forthright Bert Head, disagrees entirely with his two London contemporaries.

"I still reckon Scotland is the biggest football bargain centre around," he says.

And he has proved it time after time with his bargain-basement signings from Morton in particular.

No matter which of these managers is right—or can any of them be entirely wrong?—it certainly seems that the day of the huge transfers from Scotland to England are numbered.

One way seemed, earlier this season, for Scottish clubs to start exporting their most exciting imports for years, the Scandinavian stars who have given our game such a fillip.

There was a lot of talk about these players, having resided in Scotland for two years, becoming eligible for immediate transfer to wealthy English outfits.

You can forget all about that little lot for a long time to come.

The Scottish League, I am sure, would have no objections—but the set-up of the Football League in England will not permit such a market to be set up.

The clubs down there would have to vote and win a majority to allow foreign players to play in League matches. And such a thorny subject seems to have little hope of getting the majority needed to quash a resolution currently banning foreign stars from England.

* * *

One set of people are certainly more than happy at present with the standard of Scottish football — and they are the ones who matter most, the SUPPORTERS!

The Scottish Football League took great pride in announcing their half-term report, which showed that attendances had increased by 103,120 in the opening half of the current campaign.

Now that figure is only one good gate at Hampden Park or Wembley for an international match, but it has helped the average attendance figure to rise to a healthier 10,713, which is nearly 1,600 more fans at each First Division game this season than there were in 1965.

For the fourth successive season, gates are creeping up in the First Division. The Second, admittedly, is suffering continual drops, but when you consider the average drop in those same seasons has been from 1,107 to 994, it is not the sort of collapse that will bring the closure of almost every ground in Division II.

The Scottish Cup, like its counterpart south of the border, has always been a huge attraction.

But here, too, gates at the 16 first-round ties, not including such lucrative replays as Celtic-Partick Thistle and Clyde-Motherwell totalled an impressive 197,870 people.

Tommy Gibb, pictured in a tussle with Queen's Park Rangers player-manager Les Allen, was well into his twenties when he was signed by Newcastle. (Palmer)

Fixture congestion

FAIRS CUP REVIEW by ARTHUR ROTMIL

THE European Football Union is planning a uniformed calendar of fixtures over the next two or even three years, in an effort to control the congested European programme. It appears that on average 16 international games per week, at club and national level, are currently played in Europe during a nine-month football season.

Referring to the staggering total of 640 international matches in that period, the secretary of UEFA Hans Bangerter explained the necessity to deal with the incredible growth of inter national competitions in recent years. In 1955-56, for example, only 52 games were scheduled in the European Cup and the Fairs Cup. Since then, however, many new contests have been steadily added, like the Cup Winners Cup, International (Rappan) Cup, Balkan Cup, European Nations Championship, Nations Amateur Cup, Challenge Cup for Under-23 teams and, as in England, the Football League Cup—all in addition to World Cup qualifying games and friendly internationals, as well as the restored Mitropa and Alpine Cup tournaments.

The congestion of fixtures has led to frequent squabbles over dates and club-before-country attitude of most teams engaged in lucrative competitions. So far, 23 out of the 30 countries approached on the subject of a fixed calendar, have agreed in principle to the new proposals. The main advantages are a clear picture of all European tournaments at every level, plus any free dates available, the avoidance of fixture clashes and the end of disagreements over dates. The drawbacks must be the too great a number of matches on same days, too many meetings in the same country and the limits on TV-coverage because of concentration of attractive games.

But perhaps most significant is Bangerter's suggestion that in future only in special cases will UEFA permit the nomination of a Fairs Cup entrant from the same city as that already represented in the Champions Cup or Cup Winners Cup.

In view of this, the recent British plea for more than one team per city was rejected, but in any case, nothing further will be decided until the general meeting in June, when, as expected, UEFA will take over the organisation of the Fairs Cup.

When the second round of this season's competition was completed by the end of November, West Germany emerged with the strongest representation of three teams, while Italy who managed its maximum of four into that round were left with only one. England, Scotland and Spain still had two entrants engaged whilst Hungary, Poland and Turkey, who started out with one team each, were still in the running.

All three West German sides contesting round two won through but not without anxiety. Pride of place must go to Eintracht Frankfurt who fought out two tremendous duels with Italy's Juventus. After a goalless draw in Turin, another blank score seemed likely at home but with only 15 seconds of extra time left, Bechtold slammed an unexpected winner. Hannover travelled to Stockholm to meet AIK, who expecting snow and ice, were willing to play both legs in Germany but this was refused by the organising committee. The result: A "crowd" of 514, believed to be the smallest ever to attend a European game; the match was played in below-freezing temperature and the hosts won 4-2. AIK even took the lead at Hannover but were eventually overhauled by 5-2 and 7-6 on aggregate. Hamburger SV also had it tough against Slavia Prague, for after a 4-1 home win (the Czechs missed a penalty) they were lucky to lose by only 3-1 in Prague.

Two English sides had their ties decided by a toss of a disc. Leeds the holders beat Napoli 2-0 but lost by the same score in Naples, and at the end of extra time called correctly to "win". Thus for the second time Leeds won a Fairs tie on a toss-up and again an Italian team suffered as did Bologna in the quarter-finals of 1966-67. But Chelsea, who in 1966 spun out AC Milan, were this time tossed out (literally) themselves after two goalless meetings and extra time by DWS Amsterdam. Only Newcastle scored a genuine success over Sporting Lisbon by 2-1 overall.

Two Scottish clubs advanced with Hibernian 4-1 aggregate winners over Lokomotive Leipzig (bottom of the East German league) and Glasgow Rangers who demolished Eire's Dundalk by 9-1. The Irish lodged a protest against the Scots having fielded John Greig who became ineligible after being sent off in Rangers' previous match v. Vojvodina. Greig scored in fact one of the goals against Dundalk but so far nothing has been heard from the Fairs Cup committee whose Rule No. 7 is quite clear on the subject.

The two Spanish survivors marched on, Real Zaragoza eliminating Aberdeen by 4-2 and Atletico Bilbao narrowly succeeding 1-0 v. Panathinaikos of Greece. The only Italians left were Fiorentina who just pipped East Germany's Hansa Rostock under the away-goals-double rule after the scores were level 4-4. Portugal's Vitoria Setubal swept out France's Olmpique Lyon by 7-1 and even more crushing was Ujpest Dozsa's 11-2 aggregate victory over hapless Aris Salonika, with Antal Dunai, Hungary's top league scorer, hitting four goals at home, and five in this tie. Polish Army team Legia Warsaw disposed of Belgium's Waregem by 2-1 while Turkey's renowned giant-killers of last season Goeztepe, put out Argesul Pitesti of Rumania by 5-3. Finally, OFK Belgrade kept the Yugoslav flag flying by knocking out Bologna 2-1, both goals coming again from Santrac.

Gates continue to boom in Britain and I cannot give a finer example than Newcastle drawing 56,200 for their third round home tie against Zaragoza who were then second from bottom in the Spanish league. But ten days later, when Newcastle entertained the reigning English champions Manchester City in the fourth round of the FA Cup, there were 520 fans fewer. Well, times have certainly changed.

With several third round ties still outstanding, as I write the latest position concerns these quarter-final pairings: Newcastle v. Vitoria Setubal; Leeds or Hannover v. Ujpest Dozsa or Legia Warsaw; Hamburger SV v. OFK Belgrade or Goeztepe and Glasgow Rangers v. Eintracht Frankfurt or At. Bilbao.

Scotland Under-23 international Eddie Gray is a valuable member of the Leeds team, current holders of the Fairs Cup. (U1)

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Return to at
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But Velez Sarsfield are by no means a small club. They were in 1940 when Jose Amalfitani took over as president. They had just been relegated, had 2,000 members and only 42 Pesos in the bank. Today, 28 years later, they have 70,000 members, some of the best sports installations in South America, including a brand-new soccer stadium, an Olympic-size swimming pool at which most of the national championships are held, while their last balance sheet showed a 50 million Peso (£60,000) surplus.

This was mostly the work of President Amalfitani who, for example, could often be seen helping the workmen building the soccer stadium. Now he is, unfortunately, seriously ill and missed his club's latest triumph—the national soccer title. But perhaps 73-year-old Amalfitani didn't care so much about this as the social activity of the club, which even includes the building of their own university to cater for the thickly populated eastern suburbs of Buenos Aires, which carries the same name and where it is located.

Velez Sarsfield have not won more soccer titles because it wasn't their main aim. They never put more into professional soccer than it earned, as the other big clubs have. Even during the title decider with River Plate and Racing Club—the first three-team play-off in the history of local soccer—their chances were almost spoilt because they stood firm on this principle.

The club offered the players an extra bonus of £60 for each play-off game plus £60 per point. The players wanted more than twice as much and wouldn't accept an unusual offer from coach Manuel Giudice to hand over to them £600 of his own bonus. The club stood firm and although the players at first refused to turn up for training, they finally climbed down.

The season's events can perhaps not overshadow San Lorenzo's feat of winning the Metropolitan Championship unbeaten with a 10-point lead in their group, although they flopped in the "National" due to injuries to key men while others were unable to regain form. It should not be forgotten, however, that Velez Sarsfield won the other group of the "Metropolitan" and were then knocked out by world champions Estudiantes in the semi-final (1-0). This still gives them the best over-all record for the season:

P	W	D	L	F	A	P
37	22	10	5	79	34	54

and an average of 2.13 goals per game which is the best since 1962.

For Velez Sarsfield, carrying a blue V on their white shirts, the victory sign was a W—Willington and Whebe. Willington is a soccer genius who has exasperated both international and his club coaches by his ups and downs and the way he gets the team to play according to his own plans. He was in and out of the team, but certainly made his presence felt in the vital games. Whebe, quite the opposite, had the ball little but never wasted it to finish top scorer in the championship with 13 goals in 11 games. Add to that two fast, orthodox wingers who play on the touch-line and centre hard and you have one of the few teams which played attacking soccer which overcame slight defens flaws.

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Independiente ...	415	555	373	3

The point is that River Plate, who as good as shared the title in 1968, played to the same pattern as Velez Sarsfield. With a weak and ever-changing defence, in which former king-pin, Uruguayan Matosas, had slowed up and only Guzman was consistently outstanding, they relied on attack and two orthodox scoring wingers, Mas and Cubillas, who played on the side-line. Daniel Onega did Willington's organising job although River's tactics (they were coached by their former international forward, Angel Labruna) often left him high and dry.

With Velez Sarsfield and River Plate finishing at the top in spite of not having strong defences, other clubs may return to attacking soccer next season rather than follow Estudiantes, Boca Juniors and Racing, who were organised from the back up to the mid-field with a 4-3-3 set-up, but failed in attack. These clubs did well against foreign opposition but were only moderately successful in local soccer.

Racing Club did lead the National Championship, unbeaten, until two weeks before the end, but were going to pieces fast. In the play-off games veteran Humberto Maschio—who retired at the end of the season to take over as national team coach—stood out, and many Racing fans wished he had postponed his retirement to help out in the reorganisation which will be necessary for the coming season.

COACHES LEAVE SUCCESS TEAMS

Last season's two success clubs, San Lorenzo and Velez Sarsfield, have both lost their coaches who were given much of the credit for their success.

San Lorenzo's Elba de Padua Lima went home to Rio for Christmas after the season's last game and while there, surprisingly signed for Flamengo at a reported monthly salary of about £900. He hadn't been satisfied with his contract at San Lorenzo, but earlier it had been reported that he would carry on this season at a much higher salary.

Velez's Manuel Giudice has had problems at the club from the moment he took over at the start of 1968. These weren't smoothed out by success and he is about to sign for San Lorenzo at an estimated £600 monthly salary. This could be a pointer to the coming season's title prospects.

The Metropolitan Championship—the former First Division—was scheduled to start on February 23.

er Scene

from ERIC WEIL

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European Commentary . . . . . GORDON JEFFERY

Inconsistencies are apparent

I AM often fascinated/surprised/amused by the way in which a particular aspect of football simultaneously becomes the big news story in a variety of papers. Often, of course, it is a solely domestic matter as, for example, the publicised suggestion of the Football League's Management Committee that their member clubs should consider a "model" form of contract for all their players and, this was the "angle" that made the headlines, one that included the re-introduction of a maximum wage level.

The Football League sent out the story and, not surprisingly, the sports editors of most English editions of the national dailies decided to give it prominence. Equally without surprise one expected to see them all feature the announcement of Sir Matt Busby's intended retirement as the team manager of Manchester United. And that was a story of exceptional interest to football enthusiasts beyond Britain and so was widely featured in many Continental papers.

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There was not the same degree of Continental coverage—not at the same time—of the entirely *European* story that suddenly, it seemed to me, made the headlines in most British papers. This was the one about UEFA intending to get really tough with players who misbehave on the field. It featured the list of cumulative punishments from missing a single match to suspension for "life" and, unless you read every word of the articles as well as the "hard-hitting" opening paragraph of most of them, you could easily get the impression that this was a measure to be applied by *national* associations for competitive football throughout Europe.

It was not this of course but something that applied only to UEFA competition matches and it was, in fact, no more than a spelling-out of what has been the position for some years now. The lesser news coverage of this "story" in Europe as a whole was no doubt because the majority opinion was that it did not add anything new.

COPIES

What did happen was that at their meeting in Istanbul the Executive Committee of UEFA confirmed the terms of a "Memorandum on Disciplinary Measures and Principles of Protocol" to be observed on the occasion of UEFA competition matches, and they decided that copies of that memorandum should be sent to national associations as soon as they come out of press. It was after they came out of press and reached the FA, amongst other national associations of course, that the story "broke" in the British papers, made the headlines but—added nothing to what was already the position!

What was new amongst matter discussed at the Istanbul meeting was the decision that "in future all sanctions imposed by the Disciplinary Committee shall be published in the Official Bulletin of UEFA". This is in line with the general practice followed by most national associations (probably all of them—I can think of no exception) who regularly release summaries of the decisions taken by their various disciplinary committees.

The December issue of UEFA's Bulletin includes the first report of the "sanctions imposed" without possibly always mentioning the sentence imposed. It makes interesting reading—and provides material for endless discussion. I was reminded of the time, long ago, when I found myself involved as a trade union representative with seemingly endless discussions about a Promotion Procedure. Part of the overall problem was that in a very large organisation covering offices throughout the country it was impossible for one Olympian figure to report on the merits of the large and scattered staff.

DISPARITY

Instead several dozens were making reports on their own staff with the probability that some would be tolerant in their assessments and others harsh. The partial safeguard against this sort of disparity was to have all those recommended for promotion seen by a central board of "neutrals". An additional merit of this arrangement was that it served as a guide to those making the reports no less than those reported upon with, for example, doubts cast about the judgement of those who recommended candidates that were mainly found to be woefully inadequate by the central body.

An idle recollection—except that, if the same referee seems often to encounter trouble in his matches whilst others seldom do, I hope UEFA, the central body in this case, sometimes do wonder why!

There is ammunition here for several of the old chestnuts—like the one that notes how visiting players everywhere seem more likely to be expelled or booked than the locals. This sometimes gets linked with the *fact* that more penalties are awarded to home than to visiting sides. The inference is then often drawn that the latter fact *proves* that referees tend to favour the home side. It does no such thing of course. Home sides score more goals than visiting sides and there is more actual play in the visiting side's penalty area in nearly every League match. It is obvious that the possibility of an offence being committed is greater therefore in the visitors' penalty area than in the home club's!

WARNED

But why should more visiting players receive cautions than home ones in these European competitive matches? In the Champions Cup matches, four home club players were warned—one for the offence variously reported by different referees as "rough play", "dangerous play", "brutal play", or simply "a foul"; two for protesting in some non-violent way about the decisions of the referee; and one for "molesting a linesman"—one extremely lucky fellow not to have been sent off or at least subsequently suspended! In fact, as you may have guessed, the only player sent off was one of a visiting club—Kristensson of Malmo FF in the match against AC Milan refereed in Italy by Mâchin of France. This was, of course, more of a needle match that many would have expected when the draw was made. But Malmo had won in Sweden by the odd goal in three and at half-time in Milan the score was one-all such that Malmo had maintained their single goal advantage over the one-time European champions. Some tension was to be expected therefore but our pre-conceived notions of rather turbulent and temperamental football in Italy and more sporting attitudes in Swedish football would have been found wanting in this particular context with M. Mâchin having to caution Ljungberg for rough play and expel Kristensson for repeatedly adopting an unsporting attitude

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Pictured are (left to right): Vasiliy Turyanchik, Josef Sabo, Valeriy Parkuyan, Vladimir Levchenko, with trainer K. Kovan, of the USSR champions Dynamo Kiev. (UPI)

and, after being cautioned, continuing to make derogatory remarks about the referee (in French presumably?). The Milan players, one is glad to appreciate, were guiltless even in the eye of a referee who, a fortnight before in a Cup Winners Cup match, had to book five players—two of Lugano and three of Barcelona.

One visiting player sent off then in the Champions Cup and no home player: four home club players cautioned but seven visitors—five of them for the comprehensive "rough play" offence, one for "protesting" and one for time-wasting.

RETURN

"Time-wasting", incidentally, was noted in the book only in respect of visiting players, but that is something that could fairly be anticipated with the probability that it would be the visitors who either started a second leg match with an advantage they were seeking to hold for ninety minutes or began a first leg match intent only upon getting through ninety minutes with the minimum of goals disadvantage for the return. What was interesting was to note that the referees brave and correct enough to actually caution (as distinct from wagging a finger at the offenders or making some by-play of stopping a watch) were Scheurer of Switzerland (Voinea warned in the Champions Cup match between Spartak Trnava and Steaua Bucharest); Queuedeville of Luxembourg (Hohenwater of Graz warned against ADO in The Hague) and Oeberg of Norway who booked two Olympiakos players for time-wasting in their match in Scotland against Dunfermline. Is it coincidental that none of those referees operate in the big professional club leagues where this form of gamesmanship is common enough to be taken for granted? Or, as I have indicated, dealt with by the implication of "time being added". That device seems to me politic when there is room for doubt or when early delaying tactics have been overlooked (it is obviously unfair to chivvy a goalkeeper about the time he is taking about a goal-kick in the last five minutes of a match when he was taking the same time in the first five!). Yet deliberate time-wasting, like obstruction and hand-ball, I rate more deserving of punishment than many of the tackles that are judged to be unfair. In the former cases there is deliberate intent; in the latter there is at least a pretence of tackling and probably of fair tackling.

OVERALL

The time-wasting offences in the Cup Winners Cup matches exceeded those in the Champions Cup by three to one, and there was an overall increase in the offences committed in the secondary competition. That again is contrary to what we are often told—that the bigger the prize, the greater is the violence. In the same number of matches (38 in each competition) 11 players were "booked" and one sent off in the Champions Cup, 25 "booked" and five sent off (and another suspended for end-of-play behaviour) in the Cup-Winners Cup.

"Rough play" again accounted for most of the "bookings" with, in this case, nine home players offending—one more than visitors. It was, however, three visitors who were booked for time-wasting, and one more visiting than home player "protested" too much—and the five players sent off were all from visiting clubs, as was also the player suspended for 12 months (from UEFA matches) for hitting a linesman after the match.

INVADED

The player concerned was Darmanin of Sliema Wanderers and one wonders again how a Fenerbahce player got away with a booking (and no subsequent punishment reported) for "molesting the linesman" in his club's home match against Manchester City. At the end of that match the referee, Marschall of Austria, also reported the "incident" when the crowd invaded the pitch. Somewhat similarly M. Mâchin of France reported the squabble between Lugano and Barcelona players for the ball at the end of their match in Switzerland; D'Agostini of Italy reported that the Luxembourg club had two players injured because of hard play in their match in Malta against Sliema Wanderers and that bottles (admittedly only three of them) were thrown on the pitch; Mr. Leo Callaghan reported a crowd invasion and the entry of a club trainer after the Cologne-Bordeaux match in West Germany; Mr. Colling of Luxembourg noted that, after the match in Denmark between Randers Freja and Sliema Wanderers, a linesman was injured by a kick from an unknown player; and Mr. Weyland of West Germany reported that bottles were thrown at the players and officials after West Brom's match against Dinamo in Bucharest. The only penalty reported in respect of all those "incidents" was that the Dinamo Bucharest club was fined 1,000 Swiss francs for their implication as the host club in the last mentioned of the "incidents".

But what of that "incident" when Cardiff City players and officials were attacked by the police on the pitch after the Welsh club's match against Porto? It seems certain that no report on the incident was made by the referee, M. Helies of France who, during the match, sent off Graham Coldrick for kicking an opponent and booked Melvin Sutton for adopting an unsporting attitude. (No Porto players were cautioned.)

ATTACKED

It is indisputable that Cardiff players, their manager and a director were attacked and that stitches had to be inserted in wounds received. In several respects this was one of the most serious of this sort of incident—it was, for emphasis, a happening on the field and not on the surrounds or outside of the grounds when there can be some excuse for lack of protection; it was, if at first incited by the crowd, an assault by the very people (the police) brought to the ground to protect, in particular, the visiting players!

Possibly the referee did not see the assaults but even without his report UEFA can act upon the representations made by the Cardiff club. Their silence is difficult to understand without the suspicions, roused by their earlier rigging of the draw for their two club competitions, of discrimination, of a bias towards the clubs of some of the major professional national associations.

(Tailpiece: Not yet in these matches, nor in the Estudiantes and Manchester United matches, have I seen as the cause of a caution — "Pour cracher au visage". Difficult to detect perhaps. . . .)

Searching the Soccer Scene

FOUR NATIONS TIE FOR TOP POSITION

with ARTHUR ROTMIL

IN the absence of a truly outstanding national side during the past year, four countries Brazil, West Germany, Italy and Mexico, are rated joint first in the world according to a poll conducted by one of Europe's largest and most influential agencies, the Internationale Sport-Korrespondenz. The rankings have been decided on merit of achievement taking into account such factors as strength of opposition, performances in away games, injury handicaps etc., rather than bare results only.

BRAZIL'S position should surprise no one who had followed their splendid away victories over Poland, Yugoslavia, Portugal, Mexico and Peru (twice). It must also be remembered that they experimented with a total of 38 players, in 16 matches. In addition, the Brazilians played five representative games against Paraguay twice (0-1, 4-0), Argentina twice (4-1, 3-2) and Yugoslavia (3-2) which do not count as official internationals since they fielded regional selections and these results are not included in the table below.

Anton Fritsch, 23, is a renowned member of the Rapid Vienna forward line. Rapid meet Manchester United in the European Cup. (Rot)

WEST GERMANY suffered only one defeat in 1968 but nine of their 11 games were away from home and they boast today a fine defence which includes several world-class players. Their high rating is also confirmed by the important French magazine *France Football* who placed them first in Europe.

ITALY merit top place for winning the European Championship and are clearly one of the toughest sides to beat. With the nightmare of the last World Cup behind them, the well-balanced Italians must be backed to continue among the leading nations.

MEXICO'S rating may come as a shock but two fine away wins over Uruguay and Brazil have clinched their position, the highest ever in their soccer history. In particular, the triumph in Rio against Brazil was stupendous. It was Brazil's first home defeat for four years; they last crashed 3-0 to Argentina in 1964, during the so-called "Little World Cup" in which England and Portugal finished in bottom places.

Three Eastern European countries come next on the list, but Hungary are not among them! Czechoslovakia and Scotland were the only unbeaten nations in 1968, while England slipped considerably in the ratings since winning the World Cup and their record of only ten goals in nine matches is virtually the poorest among the top countries.

Here are the full world rankings together with 1968 records:

	P	W	D	L	F	A
1. Brazil	16	10	2	4	40	22
1. West Germany	11	5	5	1	14	8
1. Italy	6	3	2	1	8	4
1. Mexico	12	6	3	3	18	13
5. Czechoslovakia	4	4	0	0	10	2
6. Yugoslavia	12	3	5	4	21	18
7. Bulgaria	5	3	1	1	8	5
8. England	9	4	3	2	10	6
9. Russia	9	3	4	2	9	7
10. Scotland	5	3	2	0	9	2

102—NOT ENOUGH!

EVERY genuine soccer fan should join me in sympathy for the Hungarian team Ujpest-Dozsa who scored 102 goals in 30 matches of the recently completed league programme—yet, it wasn't enough to win the championship. The country's record holders Ferencvaros (21 titles) successfully defended their crown, by one point, despite scoring only 65 goals. Each team suffered two defeats but comparing their defensive records we find paradoxically that Ujpest conceded 27 goals—only one more than Ferencvaros.

Not since 1949, when Ferencvaros hammered 140 goals, has a Hungarian team bagged a century but it merely gave them second place. Ujpest also boasted the league's top scorers in Antal Dunai (31), Bene (22) and Fazekas who shared third place with Albert and Farkas, each with 19.

Looking at other European 16-team leagues, one notes that in Italy AC Milan needed only 53 goals to clinch the title; famous Real Madrid scored 55; Levski Sofia of Bulgaria 61; Red Star in Yugoslavia 64; while Anderlecht hit 67 in Belgium.

On the other hand, Fenerbahce claimed the championship of Turkey with only 38 goals in 32 games, whilst Dynamo Kiev recently triumphed in Russia with 58 goals from 38 games. Top scoring champions in Europe were Celtic with 106, but they played four matches more than Ujpest.

The point I am trying to make is, that if a team scores on average 3.40 goals per match yet cannot win the championship then they can be forgiven for changing their tactics and possibly withdraw into a tight defensive set-up which is already killing football as a spectacle in many countries. Or perhaps the time has come to revise our ideas of awarding two points for a 1-0 win and equally to a team winning 10-0.

The danger is, that the management of Ujpest may decide that it is not worth bothering to score over 100 goals merely to finish behind a team requiring 37 fewer and averaging only 2.17 goals per match. But when this happens, heaven help the game, for already my stomach turns every time I look at this season's league tables and find such famous teams as Arsenal, AC Milan, Fiorentina and until recently—Barcelona having scored more points than goals!

RAPID BOOST

AUSTRIAN soccer, badly starved of success, received an unexpected boost when champions Rapid eliminated Real Madrid from this season's European Cup to earn a quarter-final tilt at the holders Manchester United. Although Real no longer command a team to make Europe tremble, their name still generates enough magic for any side to feel proud having toppled the only "ever-presents" and six times winners of this competition.

Founded in 1899, Rapid, who provided their country with over 100 international players, have been champions of Austria 25 times and once champions of Germany (in 1941, after the annexation). In addition, they won the German Cup (1938), the Mitropa Cup (1930), Zentropa Cup (1952) and six times the Austrian Cup. Their total record of league titles is unique on the Continent and bettered in the world only by Glasgow Rangers, 34 times champions of Scotland. This is their seventh appearance in the Champions Cup and their best effort dates back to 1961 when they reached the semi-finals but were put out by the eventual winners Benfica.

For the second year running, Manchester United are fortunate at this stage to meet opponents at the end of a long winter break. Last season it was Górnik and now the Austrians whose league closed down in mid-December. In order to keep match fit, Rapid accepted an invitation to participate in an international seven-team tournament at Mar del Plata in Argentina, also attended by world champions Estudiantes, Palmeiras, Boca Juniors, Slovan Bratislava, MTK Budapest and a local selection, during the month of January.

At a time when English clubs were losing their managers by the hatful, Rapid actually had a dual-manager problem on their hands. Their chief is Czech-born Rudolf Vytlacil, 56, who led Czechoslovakia to a World Cup final against Brazil in 1962, their Olympic team to the Tokyo final in 1964, Levski Sofia to a league title and Bulgaria into the 1966 world final series before landing in Vienna.

Prior to Rapid's clash with Real Madrid, Vytlacil was admitted to hospital following an internal operation and the team's preparation was entrusted to Karl Decker a former international and one-time boss of the Austrian national side. It had been agreed that Vytlacil (from his hospital bed) and Decker would pick the team and decide tactics but Decker suddenly claimed sole responsibility and he was in fact the architect of their victory over Real. Vytlacil's position was temporarily undermined, moreover, as the players were said to prefer Decker's forthright, on-equal-terms approach to Vytlacil's strong language and discipline—a characteristic not exactly admired by footballers generally and the Austrians in particular.

It transpired, however, that Decker only signed a six-week contract and now Vytlacil, a former Rapid and Slavia Prague player and an Austrian citizen till 1935, is back in complete command.

Despite their limited resources, the Austrians have always produced great players. Before the war the green-white shirts of Rapid were worn by Wagner, Smistik, Bican, Raftl, Kaburek and Binder. In the 'fifties, other world-class stars emerged like Gerhard Hanappi (capped a record 96 times by his country), goalkeeper Walter Zeman, who were both in the Rest of Europe XI which held England to 4-4 at Wembley in 1953 and who together with stopper Ernst Happel plus forwards Robert Dienst and the Körner brothers Alfred and Robert helped Austria to a splendid third place in the 1954 World Cup.

But of the present squad, which includes 14 internationals, none will remember his first visit to England more fondly than outside right Anton Fritsch. The date was October 20, 1965 when Austria played England at Wembley. With the chosen Hirnschrodt unfit through injury Fritsch, then only 19, received his first cap. England took the lead through Bobby Charlton which Rudi Flögel, another Rapidler, equalised, but Connelly restored the hosts' advantage. Then came young Anton's moments of glory late in the game. When Buzek sent a scorching free kick which Springett couldn't hold, there was Fritsch running in to score. Next, Fritsch dispossessed Stiles in midfield, advanced a couple of paces and from fully 30 yards fired a rocket under the bar to give Austria a 3-2 victory—acclaimed by the gasping Austrian journalists as "Das Wunder von Wembley!"

Rapid, who once beat Arsenal 6-1 and also boast triumphs over Honved, Sao Paulo, Fluminense, River Plate, Spartak and Dynamo Moscow, are renowned cup-fighters and they seem to reserve their best displays for the European Cup. In 1956, after losing 2-4 in Madrid, they led Real by 3-0 in Vienna before a wonder goal by Di Stefano saved the Spaniards taking the tie to a play-off in Madrid where Real won 2-0. A year later Rapid returned from Italy 1-4 down to AC Milan but won 5-2 at home in one of the finest and most dramatic games I have ever seen, forcing another decider which they lost 2-4 in Zürich.

Conscious of their long break from competitive soccer, the Austrian champions decided to arrive in England a full week before the first leg at Old Trafford. I arranged accommodation and training facilities for them at the Lymm Hotel in Cheshire. When they take the field, I feel certain that United will face a tremendous task, but their fans should get value for money from watching the pride of Austria—the Sportklub Rapid!

WATCH IT REF!

DURING the Dutch First Division game between NAC Breda and Maastricht VV the booming voice on the loudspeaker gravely proclaimed: "Will the owner of the car number so-and-so parked in front of the stadium entrance remove it immediately or it will be towed away by the police."

When the announcement was repeated, the crowd suddenly noticed referee Dorpmans making frantic gestures towards the touch-line. Laughter broke out all around the ground when it was realised that the car in question belonged to the referee! Dorpmans controlled the first half till the end and then sprinted outside the ground to find his vehicle still parked there. The police allowed mercy to pass before justice. . . .

Talented and entertaining

MOST capped players:

Bozsik, Jozsef (Honved)	100
Grosics, Gyula (Honved)	87
Puskas, Ferenc (Honved)	84
Matrai, Sandor (Ferencvaros)	80
Sipos, Ferenc (Honved)	77
Fenyvesi, Mate (Ferencvaros)	76
Sandor, Karoly (MTK)	75
Schlosser, Imre (Ferencvaros)	72*
Tichy, Lajos (Honved)	70
Hidegkuti, Nandor (MTK)	68
Kocsis, Sandor (Honved)	68
Albert, Florian (Ferencvaros)	66
Sarosi, Gyorgy (Ferencvaros)	66*
Gorocs, Janos (Ujpest Dozsa)	54
Lantos, Mihaly (MTK)	52
Fogl, Karoly (Ujpest Dozsa)	50*
Meszoly, Kalman (Vasas)	50

* Pre-war players.

The increasing number of international competitions, combined with the consistency of the Hungarians' performances which ensures their appearance in the later stages, has made it possible for most of the top-class players to reach the half-century mark. The top seven in the list above have all represented Hungary during the last 15 years, while all but three are post-war players. That so many players should earn such a high number of honours indicates two factors:

A very high standard of individual ability.

A sound selection policy which seeks to build closely integrated teams rather than throw together the most popular players of the moment.

Grosics, Bozsik, Lantos, Kocsis, Hidegkuti and Puskas formed the backbone of the Hungarians' outstanding team of the 1950s, while Meszoly, Tichy, Gorocs and Albert came to the fore in the 1960s. Matrai, Sipos, Fenyvesi and Sandor all overlapped these two periods, serving their apprenticeship with the Bozsik-Puskas team and also appearing regularly almost throughout the 1960s.

It should be stressed that compared with many other countries the numbers of good players produced is not high. Penetrating to the second and third divisions in the Hungarian game it would be found that by comparison with England, Germany, Russia, Brazil, Argentina and Italy the general standard is lower. But the great advantage which has served the Hungarian game so well—and continues to do so—is their ability to develop promising raw material into top quality players.

If there are failings they lie in only two departments. Apart from the period dominated by Gyula Grosics there has been an acute shortage of top-class goalkeepers and in more general terms the task of motivating the established players has often proved difficult. This has led many of the top Hungarian coaches to the belief that professionalism holds the key to their future prosperity. Lacking motivation, the Hungarians are, and will almost certainly remain, the most talented and entertaining football nation in Europe but may never be able to prove that they are also the best.

The current squad:

	Age	Caps
Gyula Tamas (Diosgyor)	28	8
Jozsef Gelei (Tatabanya)	30	13
Beno Kaposzta (Ujpest Dozsa)	26	16
Kalman Meszoly (Vasas)	27	50
Kalman Ihasz (Vasas)	27	21
Lajos Szucs (Ferencvaros)	25	10
Erno Solymosi (Ujpest Dozsa)	28	38
Dezso Novak (Ferencvaros)	29	9
Gyula Rakosi (Ferencvaros)	30	42
Janos Gorocs (Ujpest Dozsa)	29	54
Ferenc Bene (Ujpest Dozsa)	24	32
Florian Albert (Ferencvaros)	27	66
Janos Farkas (Vasas)	26	31
Imre Komora (Honved)	28	2
Antal Dunai (Ujpest Dozsa)	24	2

Half of the current international squad are within reasonable distance of the most capped players of the past but Meszoly (playing in midfield for his club) and Gorocs (lacking physical qualities) seem unlikely to make any significant contribution in the future. This leaves Albert, Rakosi, Bene and Farkas the only players with a significant total already who are apparently permanently installed in the national team.

For the future, Kaposzta and Szucs should pass the 50 mark—barring accidents and injury, but the most promising of all the new generation of players was Zoltan Varga, the former Ferencvaros inside-forward. Twenty-four years old, with 14 caps, Varga had already ousted Albert from his once indisputed position in the affections of Ferencvaros fans but he quit Hungary last October and is now resident in Berlin.

NATIONAL COACH

Karoly Soos is 59 years old and played as a professional in the 'thirties in France, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia. After the war he coached with considerable success for Honved, Ferencvaros and Ujpest Dozsa and between 1954 and 1957 assisted Marton Bukovi, who was in charge of the Hungarian national team at that time.

Playing Record

	Pld.	W.	D.	L.	For	Agst.
Albania	3	2	1	0	15	0
Argentina	1	0	1	0	0	0
Austria	112	57	22	33	262	216
Belgium	5	2	0	3	11	11
Brazil	2	2	0	0	7	3
Bulgaria	12	9	2	1	43	11
Chile	3	1	1	1	10	9
Czechoslovakia	34	18	9	7	86	59
Denmark	5	5	0	0	23	1
England	11	5	0	6	25	39
Finland	6	6	0	0	34	4
France	13	10	1	2	40	16
Germany (to 1944)	18	7	6	5	43	40
East Germany	10	7	2	1	23	11
West Germany	4	2	0	2	14	10
Greece	1	1	0	0	11	1
Holland	7	4	2	1	22	13
Republic of Ireland	5	2	3	0	14	11
Italy	26	8	7	11	48	46
Kroatia	3	1	2	0	3	2
Luxembourg	2	2	0	0	13	2
Mexico	3	2	0	1	7	2
Norway	4	3	0	1	17	2
Poland	17	15	1	1	65	16
Portugal	3	0	1	2	3	9
Rumania	10	9	1	0	38	8
Scotland	5	2	2	1	12	10
South Korea	1	1	0	0	9	0
Spain	3	0	0	3	3	7
Sweden	25	14	6	5	72	48
Switzerland	30	23	2	5	106	45
Turkey	3	2	0	1	10	5
United Arab Rep.	5	3	1	1	9	5
Uruguay	3	1	2	0	6	4
U.S.S.R.	12	4	3	5	30	14
Wales	5	2	2	1	7	7
Yugoslavia	23	12	6	5	44	31

MICROSCOPE

Second in a new series by

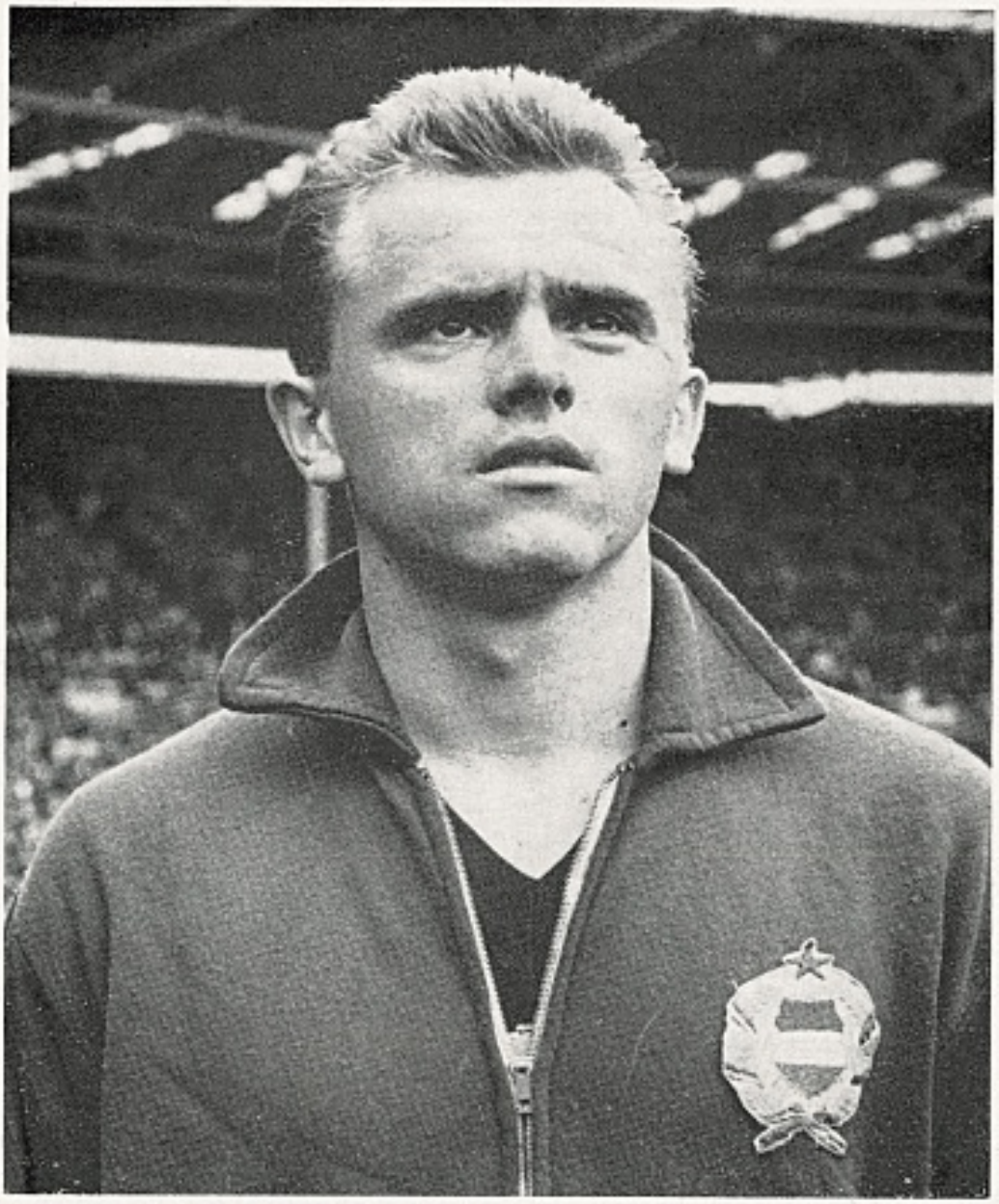
ERIC BATTY

HUNGARY

Between May 1961 and December 1967 Soos was in charge of the East German national team and if he did not achieve any outstanding success in the big international tournaments he did at least guide the East Germans into a position in which they stood on a par with the old-established soccer countries. In East Germany Soos attempted to develop the techniques of the Central European game to provide an ideal blend for the more competitive modern game.

Since returning to Hungary early in 1968, Soos has taken over the national squad from Rudolf Illovsky, who stood in temporarily after Lajos Baroti ended his eight-year stint to return to club level. Since then the Hungarians have played only two full internationals, the home and away European Championship ties with Russia, and it seems clear that he is now trying the East German experiment in reverse. In Hungary he has a broadly based supply of skilful players which he must try to marry up with the physical qualities, strength, stamina, determination, which marks the game in Western Europe.

Against Russia, the Hungarians displayed a determination previously unknown in their game, but after winning 2-0 at home they were beaten 3-0 in Moscow. In England during the 1966 World Cup purely as an observer, Soos remarked that the era in which the football artists were supreme, is now over. "The future," he said, "belongs to the artisans."



KALMAN MESZOLY.

HUNGARIANS' GOLDEN PERIOD

Perhaps more than any other country, the Hungarians have accepted football as a natural part of their everyday life and since the apprentice period they have repeatedly demonstrated that they have a natural aptitude for the game. This being so, it would normally be difficult to pick out any exceptional purple patch were it not for the brilliance of the Puskas-Kocsis team of 1950–55.

As far back as 1934 the Hungarians beat England 2-1 in Budapest when the English were still the acknowledged masters. In 1938 they reached the final of the World Cup with Sarosi and Szengeller the outstanding individuals, and throughout the entire post-war period they have been not only exceptionally difficult to beat but have been recognised wherever the game is played as the aristocrats of world football.

Gustav Szebes was the man behind the team developed in Hungary around 1949–50 —a manager of the old school with an eye for talent in the raw and a natural aptitude as a psychologist. In the six years which immediately followed the Second World War the Hungarians were beaten only seven times in 36 games, but this was only the preparatory period in which the young Kocsis, Puskas and Boszik were being welded into the side.

During the 24 months of 1951 and 1952 the Hungarians scored 61 goals for the loss of only seven and won all the 13 matches they played. In 1952 the highlight was the winning of the Olympic Games soccer title in Helsinki against specially strong teams from Russia and Yugoslavia which were then amongst the best in Europe.

Invited to play at Wembley in December, 1953, the Hungarians thrashed England 6-3 and early in 1954 again faced England in a return match at the Nep Stadion in Budapest, which they won handsomely 7-1.

The. Hungarians' playing record in the five years 1951 to 1955 speaks for itself:

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.
1951 ...	3	3	0	0	16	1
1952 ...	10	10	0	0	45	6
1953 ...	8	5	3	0	25	12
1954 ...	14	12	1	1	59	17
1955 ...	12	10	2	0	53	16
	47	40	6	1	198	52

Tragically for Szebes and the Hungarians the lone defeat they suffered in this period came in the final of the 1954 World Cup. Starting the competition as the firmest favourites of all time, they played without their captain and leading scorer, Ferenc Puskas, in the quarter-final and semi-final and then brought him back, half-fit, for the vital match against West Germany.

Taking an early two-goal lead, the Hungarians finally lost 3-2 after an outstanding match in which they produced some of the best football of the decade in the closing minutes.

In retrospect it seems clear that Puskas should not have played and the omission of Budai (adjudged to be stale) meant switching left-winger Zoltan Czibor to the right flank and bringing in Toth. Both these decisions were later seen as mistakes and the responsibility was placed firmly at the feet of Gustav Szebes. With Szebes gone, the tradition and the quality of their football remained for a further 18 months before Puskas, Kocsis and Czibor all joined Spanish clubs.

SHORT STORY

by

BRIAN GLANVILLE

LOYAL and skeletal, Greenberg appeared one day in the United press box, the latest of Freeman's friends. These were the early 'fifties, when there was still residual hope that Freeman would one day be rich, be famous, be all the things he'd promised to be, and knew he ought to be.

Kind and cocksure, with his puns, his trilby hat—but more than 40, now—he covered games for the *Dirpatch*; and brought his friends, who had no right to be there. Of these, Greenberg, though so silent, was the most noticeable yet. He was very tall, unfailingly intense, given to long, fawn, shapeless raincoats which he wore like shrouds; to a brown, high crowned hat which he wore without fantasy, flush on the crown of his head, while Freeman's trilby swooped at an angle. He never smiled. His eyes, small and myopic behind tortoiseshell spectacles, were brown; the eyes of a sad, old dog.

When Freeman talked, he listened, as if listening were an active function. The tension of his thin body, the very inclination of his head, proclaimed: I'm listening, look at me; and *you* should listen, too. Later, as he gradually relaxed, he went one further, took to nodding; later still, to murmurs of assent: "Joe's right, you know."

One saw him only at the two North London grounds, United and Rovers; perhaps because Freeman's writ ran no further, perhaps because he himself had a sense of the appropriate. For he was all North London, its quintessence; the distillation of its fogs, its ugly streets and shopping arcades, its multiple stores, its drab semi-detacheds. It was impossible to picture him in the country, unless it was in the middle of some field; a straggling, urban scarecrow. God knows what he did for a living; one imagined him travelling in ladies' garments, dealing in ugly furniture, doing something honest and dim, modestly rewarding, without prospects.

"Him?" said Freeman, oblivious throughout of the signs of growing independence, the first, faint rumblings of self-determination, "Stoke Newington, I think he lives. Or Stamford Hill." It was as if he, too, granted Greenberg no existence beyond the press box, no ambitions that were not discipular. "Joe's right. If they'd listened to Joe ... Joe *knows* the game."

Quixote and Pancha, I thought, one day, seeing them from behind as they moved across the grey waste of the United car park, Greenberg meekly adjusting his long, gaunt strides to match the shorter, chirpier gait of Freeman, as he loomed above him. Yet which, on second thoughts, was Quixote, which was Sancho Panza? Freeman, certainly, would have no doubts; he saw himself as a crusader. "The top soccer controversialist of our day," he had called himself, in the publicity hand-out for his latest enterprise: "Football Programmes International."

"Wonderful," said Greenberg who, in his second press box season, had more to say. "A wonderful idea of Joe's. A man in Rio wants to collect Arsenal programmes, so now he can do it."

But the scheme, like all the rest, had collapsed; other countries, for the most part, didn't issue programmes. "But if they *had*!" cried Greenberg, "what a wonderful idea!"

Our conversations, those we had, took place in the car park, or in the tiny, crowded press rooms at Rovers and United, over saucerless white cups of thick, undrinkable tea; over cheese and spam sandwiches, over the occasional prize of a small cake. Around us, other journalists shoved and bustled in their lemming-rush towards the tea urn. Elbows challenged one's tea, feet ground into one's toes; Greenberg towered above the ruck like on ostrich, his Adam's apple bobbing with emotion. "Ronnie Klein," he'd say, naming an editor who once published Freeman in his short-lived magazine. "It went to his head. Ten guinea shirts. Fifty guinea suits. And telling *Joe* what to do! *Joe*!"

Slowly, then, he was taking on a life of his own, though one noticed it only in retrospect. To talk at all was the first step, the next, to talk when Freeman was not beside him, like a puppeteer, even if Freeman was still almost always his subject.

The time came, though, when Freeman was not; instead, the subject was his nephews. Both were doing very well, and one guessed he couldn't be married, had perennially resigned himself to the status of admiring uncle. One nephew was a brilliant boy, 17—"he's going to sit a scholarship to Cambridge". The other was younger, 14, "not a student, he'll never make a student, but a natural footballer. I watch all his school games, Saturday mornings, before I come on here. This morning: what a goal! Left-footed! I only wish you'd been there to see it!"

Faithful and opaque, Freeman took him for granted. Freeman noticed nothing, continuing to make bad puns, cheerfully lay down the law, deplore his bad luck in the past: "And it was all fixed! The job was mine!" Greenberg, like the rest, had his function—that of Chorus—in return for which he saw the match for nothing. But Greenberg wasn't like the rest.

Perched

Next season, his third in press boxes, one suddenly became aware he had cut adrift. There he was, one autumn afternoon at Rovers, high up in the back row, sitting by himself; or rather, sitting between two reporters, neither of whom was Freeman. The same hat perched incongruously on his head, he blinked out over the field through the same spectacles. Baffled, I looked round for Freeman and at last saw him, rows and rows away, far down across the gangway; itself a frontier. Had they quarrelled, I wondered? Had Panza seen through Quixote, Quixote been disappointed in Panza? But in that case, why was Greenberg still there? Over the years, Choruses had come, been used, and had departed; interchangeable, replaceable.

At half-time in the press room, where the steam of tea mingled with the steam of soaking raincoats, they did not speak to one another. In the case of Greenberg, gaunt and opaque, it might have meant anything or nothing, but there was something to the set of Freeman's back, turned consistently to Greenberg, which implied a huffy consciousness he was there.

It seemed to me, as the weeks went by and Greenberg changed with them, that Freeman increasingly took on the baffled aspect of a Frankenstein, deserted by his monster.

In his next stage, Greenberg grew strangely interested in minutia. It was guilt, perhaps, a lurking awareness that however long he haunted press boxes, he had no right to be there. This, though he was always kind and patient with young journalists, sombrely welcoming, helping

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GREENBERG

them decide just who had hit the post, which back had kicked off the line.

So, in this new phase, he came to care about attendance figures, about those little scraps of pasteboard passed along each row of journalists after half-time, bearing the number of spectators. "Did you get it?" he would ask, turning his anxious, sad, cadaverous face to the row behind him. "Forty-five thousand and what? Three-three-two. Thank you." And, relieved, he would write it down very carefully on his programme.

Then there were the goalscorers, or rather, not so much the goalscorers as the goal *makers*, pursued with almost genealogical zeal. "Who gave him the ball?" the hollowed face would turn to ask.

"Lewis."

"No, not him. The pass *before* that."

Gleaned

I never saw him with his hat off, nor his mackintosh, even when spring came and the brighter days, when the sun shone on the United car park, as on a desert, gleamed—if you walked down the hill—from the glassy sides of Rovers' towering stands. If he did take the hat off he'd be bald, I knew; would have to be bald, his skull a vast egg, crossed by a few adventurous strands. One almost felt he had been born bald, been born wearing the hat, although beneath the brim of it, hair grew in bushy irrelevance down the back of his neck.

"My nephew," he said, one day at Rovers, when I met him walking up the wretched street from the Tube. "The brilliant one ...?" I began, then changed it to "the Cambridge one?"

"No, no," he said, "that's not till Christmas, not the scholarship. The other one."

"The footballer?"

"That's right. I've talked to Johnny Wilkinson." This was the United manager, a silent man with a thick, red neck who sat, anguished, in the back row of the directors' box, suffering each mistake, identifying with each kick. From the press box, right behind him, one could almost tell the state of a game, simply by looking at his neck.

"That's good," I said.

"He's interested. He'll send a scout."

"That's marvellous."

Often, now, he would be in the press box when Freeman wasn't, suggesting total independence, access to passes of his own. And he grew more and more assertive, no longer craning on the edge of groups like an apologetic giraffe. Nor did he merely participate; he would contradict, interrupt, quite impervious; spluttering his disagreement, intruding in a sudden welter of words. "Yes, but that's not the point ... it isn't ... I mean, a man like that, a centre-forward, he's *entitled* to score goals."

Now *he* was Quixote, tilting at shibboleths, at self-styled lions of Fleet Street. "What about Dimmock?" he once cried, when a group of us one day were listening to a monologue, by a lion, on the failings of managers. The lion turned, ready to devour him, then said nothing. Greenberg, all bone and gristle, could plainly never be devoured. "A man like Dimmock," he said, his cavernous face drawn tighter than ever by the violence of his sincerity. "Where do you ever see an outside-left like him? I was a boy. My father took me."

In the New Year, he said to me, "My nephew. You remind me of him," and I said, confused, "The one who may turn pro?"

"No, no," he said, "the brilliant one. The Cambridge one. He's going there. He got his scholarship."

"That's wonderful," I said.

"In Science," he said. "*Natural* Science. His headmaster at the school said they've never had a boy like that. Believe me, he'll end up as one of those ... those nuclear ..."

"Physicists," I heard myself say.

"That or the other thing. The rockets."

"You must be very proud of him."

"I am," he said, "I am," and I remembered how he'd once been proud of Freeman.

Freeman never spoke to him, nor of him, and, intrigued as I was, I could not bring myself to mention him to Freeman, greyer and less jaunty with the years, his jokes feebler, his ambitions no longer advertised. Once only in conversation did I mention Freeman's name to Greenberg, half experimentally. "Spoiled himself," said Greenberg, in a perfunctory mutter. "He spoiled himself, Joe." It sounded like an obituary.

Fulfilment

Next August, when the evening games began, Greenberg brought his nephew, the Cambridge one, brought him into the press box: "My nephew; he's going to Cambridge." The nephew was quite a good-looking boy, with a soft, full face, and wavy black hair; tall, though not as tall as Greenberg. He was modest, polite, and he seemed unembarrassed; perhaps, over the years of promise and fulfilment, he had grown used to his uncle's fulsomeness.

"You two," said Greenberg, introducing us. "You'd have a lot in common." I thought, wrongly and wonderingly, that the wheel had come full circle; Greenberg, an interloper in the press box, was now bringing guests of his own.

But I was wrong. One windy afternoon at United, squeezed between a parked Bentley and a parked Jaguar, I saw him in tense conversation with one of the United directors; though all Greenberg's conversations were tense. The director, like every United director, had about him the prosaic, suspicious air of a successful grocer, uneasy beyond the safety of his counter. He looked up at the gaunt, wobbling, talking head on its long, thin neck with a wondering wariness of which Greenberg seemed quite unconscious. They — or Greenberg — were talking, I supposed, of the other nephew, the footballer, of whom one still heard from time to time; he was having a trial with Finchley, the amateurs; he was "going to sign forms" for United, amateur forms; "his father wants him in the business".

Mistaken

Six weeks later, when next I covered a United game, Greenberg was in the directors' box. At first I could not believe it, was sure I had mistaken the front row of the press box for the back row of the directors' box. But I hadn't. The narrow, bony, raincoated shoulders, the irrelevant fringe of hair beneath the hat, sat, indeed, in the back row of the directors' box, five places down from Johnny Wilkinson, the manager.

Looking round for someone to discuss it with, I saw, in a corner of the press box, Freeman; he, in turn, looking at the hat, the scraggy neck, with a thin, wounded smile.

During the match, I noticed that Greenberg's behaviour in the directors' box did not vary; he still, when a goal was scored, spoke anxiously to those around him, making notes on his programme, though he did not speak to the journalists behind him. At half-time, in the tea room, Freeman's eyes met mine. "*Chuzpah*," he said. "You know what *chuzpah* means? The Jewish boy who shot his father and mother then said don't hang me, I'm an orphan."

I nodded, though I saw it differently. *Chuzpah* meant cheek and bounce, effrontery, and where was Greenberg's?

A month later, I saw him in the directors' box again, his nephew—the brilliant one—beside him. Now, when we met, he was still cordial in his taut, unrelated way, but there were modulations; a hint that he was privy to secrets. There were times, when he talked about United, that he said "we". "If we get a couple of quick goals ... that was never a goal, that one; they robbed us." The club, it almost seemed, had taken the place once filled by Freeman: "the best in England, greatest players, greatest manager. You know our trouble? We play too *much* football."

● *Continued on page 43*

Focus on LIVERPOOL

by PHILIP RISING

Ground: Anfield. **Manager:** Bill Shankly. **Trainer:** Bob Paisley. **Coach:** Reuben Bennett. **Captain:** Ron Yeats. **Honours: Division I Champions:** 1901, 1906, 1922, 1923, 1947, 1964, 1966. **Division II Champions:** 1894, 1896, 1905, 1962. **FA Cup Winners:** 1965. **Colours:** All red. **Founded:** 1892.

FIRST IN A NEW "WORLD SOCCER" SERIES. NEXT MONTH: TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR.

BY their own high standards, 1967 and 1968 were lean years for Liverpool. Many clubs would be satisfied to finish fifth and third in the First Division, but not any team governed by Bill Shankly.

Liverpool, under his dynamic leadership, have become accustomed to winning, and second-best is simply not good enough. The First Division title went to Anfield in 1964 and 1966, the FA Cup in 1965 and nothing in the two subsequent seasons.

This term, however, Liverpool are again leading contenders for the major crown—ultimate success would give them their eighth championship title, a record. At present they share seven victories with Arsenal and Manchester United.

Liverpool were in the Second Division when the Glenbuck-born Shankly took over the Anfield reins. During his first two seasons the Merseyside club narrowly missed promotion, but in 1962 a place among the elite was secured.

Much, of course, is attributable to Shankly, this football fanatic who *is* Liverpool Football Club. His initial taste of the trials and tribulations of a manager was in 1949 with Carlisle United, the club that first introduced him to League soccer as a player. That was during the 1932-33 campaign, and the following season he was transferred to Preston North End.

They immediately won a place in Division I, but were relegated when he left to rejoin Carlisle.

Shankly had two years as manager of Grimsby Town and a year at Workington before joining Huddersfield in December 1955 as assistant manager. He assumed complete control a few months later and remained at Leeds Road until the Liverpool offer came along in 1959.

In less than a decade Shankly has achieved much, although his record will be incomplete until his club annex a European title.

On the domestic front, Liverpool remain supreme. No other English club can match their consistency during the past five years with almost the same basic team. Only Alun Evans and to a lesser degree Emlyn Hughes are relative newcomers.

PETER THOMPSON.

IAN ST. JOHN. (A)

When Liverpool annexed the senior title in 1964, Tommy Lawrence made 40 league appearances, Chris Lawler 6, Ron Yeats 36, Ian Callaghan 42, Roger Hunt 41, Ian St. John 40, Peter Thompson 42.

And in 1966: Lawrence 42, Lawler 40, Geoff Strong 21, Tommy Smith 42, Yeats 42, Callaghan 42, Hunt 37, St. John 41, Thompson 40. Liverpool used only 14 players in league matches during the 1965-66 campaign.

Tommy Lawrence, born Daily, turned professional with Liverpool in 1958. He gained a regular berth in goal during 1962-63 and is a full Scotland international.

Right-back **Chris Lawler** is powerful and dexterous, with a natural flair for moving forward and scoring goals. He went to Anfield from school and made his first-team debut at centre-half in March 1963. An England Under-23 international.

Geoff Strong went to Liverpool from Arsenal in November 1964 as a goal-scoring inside-forward. Under Shankly, his versatility has blossomed and he is now regarded as a utility player. Born in Kirkheaton.

To be tackled by **Tommy Smith** is not something to be relished, and this strong Liverpool-born powerhouse is a key player. England Under-23 honours have come his way and he must be a possibility for a place in England's 1970 World Cup squad. He made his debut in May 1963.

Ron Yeats has proved the backbone of Liverpool's ultra-impressive defence. Strong in the air and able to dominate by his sheer presence. One of Shankly's best purchases, being signed from Dundee United in July 1961. Born in Aberdeen, he has won two Scotland caps.

Barrow-born **Emlyn Hughes** is another potential full England international, having already been capped at Under-23 level. Joined Liverpool from Blackpool in March 1967 and was then a full-back.

Ian Callaghan played one match for England during the World Cup (his second cap) in 1966, but has since dropped out of the international reckoning. A tenacious winger with plenty of skill, he was signed straight from school. Liverpool born, he made his debut in 1960 and has over 300 senior appearances to his credit.

Roger Hunt broke the all-time Liverpool league scoring record when he collected number 234 at Chelsea in January. He was a member of England's World Cup-winning team and possesses 34 caps. Liverpool signed him from junior football in 1959, and he was born in Golborne. A strong, highly efficient opportunist.

The football world frowned when Shankly paid Wolverhampton Wanderers £100,000 for teenager **Alun Evans** in September 1968. He was out of Wolves' first team, but has justified the expenditure at Anfield. Born in Bewdley, he went to Molineux in 1965-66.

Liverpool certainly made an investment when they bought **Ian St. John** from Motherwell in May 1961. First as a striking centre-forward and now as a midfield grafter, he has proved an invaluable acquisition. Capped 21 times by Scotland, he was born in Motherwell.

Authentic wingers are few and far between in the top flight these days, but **Peter Thompson** is one of that rare breed. Born in Carlisle, he first hit the headlines with Preston, and signed for Liverpool in August 1963. Fast, tricky flankman with a powerful shot. Fourteen England caps to his credit.

These are the men who week after week maintain the Liverpool challenge on the Division I championship. There is room for individual flair, but generally their strength lies in a professional approach and unstinting teamwork.

The fact that all except Lawrence have scored this season illustrates the mobility of the team as a whole.

Victory in the league will give them another crack at the European Cup and a most welcome chance to emulate Manchester United. One would think that Liverpool are now better equipped to tackle this target, but time will tell.

Modena goalkeeper Santino Ciceri blocks a shot from Lazio's Piero Cucchi (extreme left) during a league encounter in Rome. Three of Modena's defenders move in to cover. Lazio won 2–1. (UPI)

'LA JUVE' TRIUMPH

from CHRIS WEST

JUVENTUS, with a worthy 1-0 away win against Inter on January 12, began their climb back towards the league leadership. It should be stressed, however, that "La Juve" did no more than play average football.

Before a 55,000 crowd, and in icy conditions, Anastasi (the season's second highest goalscorer after Riva) struck home in the second and tenth minutes of the game. This brave and diminutive Sicilian striker, beautifully supported by forwards Haller and Zigoni, at last gave Agnelli and Heriberto good cause to believe they had spent wisely.

It was not until the 76th minute that Burgnich drew one goal back for Inter, in spite of the hard work in midfield by the redoubtable Domenghini (recently featured in WORLD SOCCER). If one had to award "man of the match" honours it is to the latter that these should go: well supported, he could have won the game for Inter in either the 20th or 60th minutes of the game, when he forced corners that nearly led to goals.

Unfortunately, Anzolin (who replaced Sarti for Juve in the second half) was in devastating form, and Domenghini's frustration led first to a severe reprimand and then a booking by the Roman referee, Sbardella. His only supporter was the equally frustrated international, Facchetti.

Stability

The tension now existing in the ranks of Inter led to a violence of play which belies their true potential, and indeed, one must conclude that the one-time stability of a team now minus Herrera (Helenio) is all awry.

Cagliari, the surprise team of the season, drew at home with the "hardest" Italian team, Napoli (perennial winners of the Italian league "fine" stakes). In this game one could perhaps call the real winner Signor *Fear*: the Sicilians and the Neapolitans, traditional enemies, treated themselves to a hard-tackling, negative and defensive game (*à la* Arsenal versus Everton): the "men of the game" being the goalkeepers of both teams (Albertosi for Cagliari and Zoff for Napoli), ever-valorous before the high-tackling and dangerous forwards Altafini (for Napoli) and Riva (as ever) for Cagliari.

Fiorentina, the joint leaders as I write, had the gods on their side against bottom-of-the-table Pisa: on a muddy, slippery surface, before a small crowd of 22,000. Pisa, for the most part on top, with their forwards (Manservizi and Mascalaito) in fighting form, just failed to score in the 12th minute. The only goal came in the 37th, after a direct free-kick awarded against Gasparonni, following a stupid foul on Amarildo. The latter produced the finest "cannon" of the match to score from 25 yards, the muddy ball slipping into the left corner of the net, through the hands of the dejected 'keeper, Annibale.

As I suggested in my last newsletter, Torino, although only two points above bottom-of-the-table Pisa, seem to have passed their crisis point, and be set for a rapid rise up the table. The "Venetian duo" of Combin and Facchin dominated a weak Bologna from start to finish: Combin scored in the 19th and 36th minutes and Facchin in the 73rd to give the hitherto unlucky Turinese their best and most well-deserved win of the season.

Adverse

In a recent Newsletter, I wrote rather loosely of the "motley" origins of the "Genoa 1893 Cricket and Football Club" which led to some adverse, though not entirely accurate, comment: for the record, the club was founded by a cosmopolitan group of English, French and Jewish businessmen (all connected with shipping and all of British nationality) in September, 1892. The original intention of these pioneers was to establish the game of cricket, not football (hence the precedence of "cricket" in the title) but somehow the game never caught on. In 1893 this "exclusive" though cosmopolitan group of "Britishers" started to play football, mainly against scratch crews from British ships, but also against local Italians.

In April, 1896, James R. Spensley proposed to the club committee that Italian nationals be admitted "in limited numbers" to membership of this illustrious British club—Italian membership being restricted to 50! His proposal was accepted, and, just over a year and a half later, in January, 1898, Genoa Cricket and Football Club played its first *official* game on the distant fields of Ponte Carrega. In the same year, the Italian Football Federation was founded to organise a dozen or so other football teams into a league proper. Genoa, in that first year, won the league knock-out championship by beating Football-Club Torinese 1-0. For selfish and sentimental reasons only, I allow myself to wish this old team well, and, along with many friends, hope to see them in Division I next season.

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PLAYER PORTRAIT

One short, and that was that

by BRIAN MARSHALL

THERE is a saying that the Anglo-Scots have to play six times as well as their counterparts north of the border to win a place in the Scottish international side. It is therefore something of an achievement for West Bromwich Albion right-back and skipper, Doug Fraser, currently to hold down the position in the national side.

It also gives some indication of the former Aberdeen player's form this season and the high regard that the Scottish team manager, Bobby Brown, has of the right-back.

Fraser will be the first to admit that he is currently on the crest of a wave. Over the past three seasons everything has gone his way but he also knows the misery of failure and accepts this success as part of the facts of life.

Now he is eagerly looking forward to the month of May because in the space of four days he could achieve further ambitions.

On May 7 he could satisfy a life-long ambition and play at Hampden Park in the dark blue jersey of Scotland in the match against Wales. On the following Saturday Scotland play England at Wembley and Fraser very much hopes to be in the side to lower the colours of the World Cup holders.

These are just silent ambitions but Fraser realises that they are very much there for the taking as he sweeps along on the carpet of success.

As incredible as it may now appear, ten years ago Doug was at the beginning of his career. In his youth he didn't play soccer but he has certainly made amends over the past decade.

Even he himself is a little amazed upon reflection at the opportunities that have come his way over these few years. He says: "I think my career is a perfect example of the excellent life association football can provide—if you are successful."

There are a number of incidents in his career which highlight the turning points and progress he has made over a short period of time. Right at the beginning it was mere chance that he took up the sport.

He relates: "I started playing only by accident after I left school and working as a machinist at the Rolls-Royce works, East Kilbride. One day the works team were one short and they asked me to make up the side. They kept me in and I quickly became a regular member of the team. In those days I played at centre-forward where my aggression quickly attracted the attention of the junior professional club, Blantyre Celtic.

"I had an even shorter association with Blantyre. After only six months Aberdeen had no difficulty in persuading me to move north and play for them. Here I came under the wing of Tommy Pearson, the former Newcastle United winger.

DOUG FRASER

"My first match was against Ayr United. It was the final game of the season but I do not have much recollection of it because I was carried unconscious off the field shortly before half-time.

"The following season I was switched from centre-forward to outside-right by Tommy Pearson and then on another occasion the reserves were short of a wing-half. I was drafted into this position and was retained for the whole of my four seasons with the Dons."

At this time Jimmy Hagan, the former West Bromwich Albion manager, who made several astute buys for the Midland club during his association with the FA Cup holders, came on to the scene and offered Aberdeen £25,000 for Doug.

The tousled-haired defender did not need a second thought when he was asked about his feelings regarding a move to Albion. He says: "I jumped at the opportunity because I knew that English soccer was the best there is although I had never previously seen any matches south of the border."

Within four hours of signing, Fraser was England-bound and the following day he was playing in the first ever Football League game he had seen! It was a local derby against Birmingham City and he quickly proved that manager Hagan had made yet another useful acquisition.

But it has not always been a bed of roses for the Scot, who won his first international cap against Holland last May. He was switched around in the Albion defence and for a time he was dropped from the first team. Doug says: "I had no complaints. At the time I was not playing at all well. Then manager Alan Ashman decided to switch me to right-back.

"Although I had previously played in this position, I settled more quickly on this occasion and since then I have never looked back."

One of his endearing qualities, which has made him one of Albion's more dependable idols, is his fighting ability. He never knows when he is beaten and will continue to fight back until the final whistle.

Such a player is never easy to play against and he will harass and tackle strongly throughout the whole game. This tigerish approach has in no small way contributed to Albion's emergence as the top side in the Midlands.

This total mastery of the opposition has made him one of the most respected players in the game. It has also opened new horizons for the 27-year-old player, who, early in his teens, did not have the aspirations to become a sportsman.

And to think, all this would not have been possible if his works team had not been a player short one dismal Saturday a few years ago....

ALTHOUGH the national side returned from Latin America without a win in three games, the expedition served as a valuable guide to the team's potential, its adaptability to climatic and altitude conditions plus stamina. Various combinations, especially in attack, were tried out, the matches played at sea level and at over 7,000 ft. up, in temperatures varying from a humid 35 degrees centigrade in Rio to a pleasant 22 degrees in Mexico and all within eight days, involving thousands of miles of air travel in between.

WEST GERMAN NEWSLETTER

SCHÖN LEARNS MUCH

WOLFGANG WEBER. (Met)

These factors, I feel, must be considered before criticising the actual results and certainly no false conclusions should be reached from the performances on the whole. In fact, the German standing (like their currency and economics) has never been higher as confirmed by results of the two largest international polls based on 1968 records.

The French weekly *France Football* rates Germany No. 1 in Europe, while the biggest agency, the *Internationale Sport-Korrespondenz* puts them equal first in the world, together with Brazil, Italy and Mexico. The German record for 1968 was five wins, five draws and one defeat but nine out of their 11 games were played away from home.

Four days after the satisfying 2-2 draw with Brazil the national side, having crossed the mighty Andes, tackled Chile in Santiago. Here, Helmut Schön took the opportunity of testing some of the travelling reserves and a new-look forward line made its bow, including newly capped Rainer Ohlhauser (24), from Bayern Munich. A crowd of 50,000 and, despite German protests, a local referee, Carlos Robles, saw the visitors start promisingly when after six minutes a scorching shot by Beckenbauer was dropped by 'keeper Olivares and Ulsass scored easily. But a quarter of an hour later, Beckenbauer left the field with stomach trouble and another debutant appeared on the scene: Michael Bella (23), (MSV Duisburg).

The Chileans attacked furiously and scored twice through Araya and Fouilloux (59 and 77 minutes), to win by 2-1. The game was marred by an unfortunate incident after 32 minutes when Netzer fouled Araya, whose team-mate Reynoso promptly punched the German in the face and both men were ordered off. Some of Senor Robles's decisions were quite inexplicable and it is unbelievable that in the year 1968 an international match cannot be controlled by a neutral official. Team: Wolter; Vogts, Patzke; Beckenbauer (Bella), Schulz, Lorenz; Wimmer, Netzer, Ohlhauser, Ulsass (Overath), Gerwien (Dörfel).

Again four days later the Germans opposed Mexico in the Azteca-stadium, regarded as the most beautiful in the world, and the principal venue of the next World Cup finals. Fifty thousand fans watched a fascinating duel mostly between the visiting defence and the aggressive home forwards. A brilliant Maier in goal and the incomparable Beckenbauer sweeping at the rear were chiefly responsible for saving the Germans and a goalless draw was the net result of both sides' efforts. Without the sick Schulz and Netzer plus the injured Weber, the travel-weary visitors, affected by altitude, were once more forced to several changes taking the field as follows: Maier; Vogts, Beckenbauer, Bella, Patzke; Lorenz, Overath (Wimmer); Dörfel, Held, Ulsass, Gerwien (Volkert).

As I mentioned in the February issue of WORLD SOCCER, Müller and Höttges missed the tour, having been sent off in league matches and were subsequently suspended for two months. But since the domestic programme closed down on December 7 for four weeks they will only miss one full month of competitive soccer. The ban on Höttges was subsequently reduced by a fortnight.

The season resumed with the first round proper of the DFB Pokal (Cup). A major shock was the 2-1 victory of little SV Alsenborn over MSV Duisburg, whose magnitude is emphasised by Alsenborn being a village in the Pfalz with a population of 2,500. Built from nothing by the great Fritz Walter, Germany's most popular post-war player and hero of their 1954 World Cup triumph, tiny Alsenborn were Regional-Liga Südwest champions last season and this village team played before 80,000 against Hertha in Berlin during the promotion battles.

Atrocious

Other Bundesliga teams had to fight hard before reaching the next round, while most decisive was Borussia Mönchen-Gladbach's 5-2 win over Hertha, thanks to two goals each from Laumen and Wimmer. Six games were postponed owing to atrocious weather, then the holders Cologne went out 0-1 to VfB Stuttgart.

In the championship, Bayern were caught by Gladbach after only two rounds following resumption, first by losing 3-1 in Kaiserslautern and then by 0-2 to local rivals 1860. Meanwhile, Borussia defeated their namesakes from Dortmund 1-0 at home and followed up with a great 4-1 at Cologne to claim joint leadership. Cologne sadly miss Weber, who required a ear-tilage operation but even more handicapped are fourth placed Eintracht Brunswick, whose captain, Jürgen Moll (29), was tragically killed with his wife in a car crash before Christmas, while linkman Elfert suffered multiple injuries in another road accident. A bereavement also robbed Borussia Dortmund of their manager, Oswald Pfau, following a second heart attack, and he was replaced by Helmuth Schneider (ex-FK Pirmasens), who formerly coached Borussia to the championships of 1956 and 1957.

The goalscoring ratio has dropped and the average of 2.83 per match is the lowest since the creation of the Bundesliga.

The continuing slump in attendances has prompted several clubs to cutting admission charges and introducing new gimmicks. Reigning champions Nürnberg, currently bottom of the league and reporting crowd losses of 50 per cent as compared with last year, have slashed prices of some seats by 40 per cent, admit female fans free and distribute 5,000 complimentary tickets to schoolchildren.

from ARTHUR ROTMIL

CLUBS AMALGAMATE IN BULGARIA

LIKE a convulsion of the elements, the Bulgarian League has dismembered itself and taken on a new form with dramatic swiftness. Two of its leading clubs, Locomotive and Spartak—sixth and seventh respectively in the First Division—have gone out of existence. In the words of Bulgaria's official magazine, *Naroden Sport*, "the big tasks in front of Bulgarian sport can only be solved by really powerful clubs". So the Bulgarian authorities decided upon a merger of six clubs in Sofia and two in Stara Zagora "to improve their strength and to provide better training facilities".

Levski amalgamate with Spartak, the club of the Bulgarian Ministry of the Interior as Levski-Spartak.

The League leaders, CSKA Red Flag (the Army club) merge with the Second Division club Septembri to form CSKA Septembryisko Zname, literally Central Army club September Banner.

The railway club, JSK (the sporting club of the railway) join the construction workers' club as JSK-Slavia.

The amalgamation is, of course, more spectacular in terms of players than of clubs. Levski's gain is by far the greatest. From Spartak they acquire four experienced internationals, Jetchev, Mitkov, Dimitrov and Gaidarski and, presumably, their talented manager, Spassov (what is to happen to Levski's manager remains unhappily obscure). Spartak also provide five extremely promising youngsters — Panov (expected to form a dangerous partnership with Asparoukhov), Gueunine, Kharalampiev, Trevtlov and Stoyanov. Slavia's new players include Deianov, Kotkov, the younger Kolev and two of the Olympic team, Mikhailov and Georgiev. CSKA will not get any established stars, but Septembri have many promising youngsters and an exceptional youth scheme—which CSKA, as an Army side, could not run themselves.

These amalgamations mean that the second half of the season will involve only 15 clubs, so only one, instead of the usual two, will be relegated at the end. The results of JSK and Spartak during the first half will stand in terms of points won or lost by other clubs, but their intended opponents in the second half will benefit from "administrative" victories.

Perhaps the most famous player attached to the new JSKA-Slavia club will be Simeon Simeonov (*pictured UPI*) who has emerged in the last few months as one of the world's great goalkeepers. He has recently been out of action with tonsillitis —his tonsils were removed and he is now back in training.

Simeonov, of course, earned Bulgaria a draw at Wembley by his phenomenal saves —particularly from four searing shots by Bobby Charlton. Some of the more observant commentators thought they detected a weakness in that all his most spectacular saves were made to his right, and that the one shot which beat him, by Geoff Hurst, went past his left hand. But I suspect that they deluded themselves, for I have seen Simeonov make equally fabulous stops to his left. In his black strip, he bears an uncanny resemblance to Yashin at his best, and there can be no finer praise for a goalkeeper.

BANKRUPTCY

A sensation in Italy, where Felice Riva, once president of AC Milan, was carted off to jail on charges of fraudulent bankruptcy while managing director of the Valle Susa cotton mill. Riva was accused of faking the failure of the mill—which had 7,000 employees—by cooking the books. A wealthy industrialist, Riva took over the Milan club shortly after their triumph in the 1963 European Cup and it was he who replaced the infamous Nereo Rocco with the mild but unlucky Nils Liedholm. Riva resigned the presidency in 1966, but there is no suggestion that AC Milan have been fortunate not to go the way of the mill.

Further south, another story that reached the headlines was a robbery at Naples FC. When the club secretary arrived one morning he found the trophy room ransacked and 27 silver cups missing—as well as hundreds of tickets for the next big match, against Inter-Milan. There was no sign of any door or window being forced, so the thief must have used duplicate keys to the building.

All in all, it has been quite a disastrous season for Naples. If you remember, their manager and two players have served a long suspension for their part in a brawl involving Juventus. Their most famous player, Enrique Sivori, decided to go home to Buenos Aires rather than accept his own six-week suspension. Then the club presi-

dent died suddenly from a heart attack, leaving Naples uncomfortably close to relegation and without firm control.

VERSION

Asia, at last, has its own version of the European Champions Cup. The first attempt at such a competition, made last year, ended in a fiasco when one by one the competitors withdrew. Ultimately only a single match was played, in which Maccabi of Tel Aviv beat Thailand's Bangkok Bank, not the most formidable opposition that one could imagine.

However, both clubs were among the 12 to take part in the second, successful tournament recently. The others were (in Group A with Maccabi) Kowloon Motor Bus (Hong Kong), Mysore (India), Medan (Indonesia), Teheran Club (Iran) and Toyo Kogyo (Japan): then (in Group B with the Bangkok Bank) Yangji (South Korea), Perak (Malaysia), Lions (Philippines), Vietnam Police (South Vietnam, needless to say) and EPIDC (Pakistan).

Maccabi, far below their best form, drew with two rather weak opponents, Teheran and Perak, but still won their group on goal average from Toyo Kogyo. In the semi-final they easily beat Mysore, a poor Indian side, while Yanji did better than expected by beating the Japanese. Toyo Kogyo beat the Mysore State side 2-0 in front of 20,000 in the match for third place, but it took Maccabi until the 21st minute of extra time to score the decisive goal against the Koreans. For Thailand, the failure of their champions was rather disappointing, but they were fortunate to hold the tournament at all after one spectator had been killed and 50 injured during the recent King's Cup invitation tournament. It was only because preparations were too far advanced that the Asian Federation reluctantly agreed to the Bangkok venue.

And in the African Club Cup, Engelbert of Congo-Kinshasha have reached the final against all the odds. They only drew the first, home leg against the champions of Morocco, FAR. The Congolese had difficulty in keeping their feet on the sticky surface of the Tata Raphael Stadium, and missed two open goals. First their outside-left Tshinabu miskicked and the ball crept slowly towards goalkeeper Allal; then Kabenji sliced his shot wide with the goal gaping in front of him.

FAR took advantage of this generosity by scoring themselves. After six intricate passes on the left, one of their defenders put over so perfect a centre that Brahim was quite unmarked and needed only the slightest tap to score. But the equaliser was not long delayed. Three minutes later Engelbert were awarded a penalty for handball which Tshinabu converted without particular effort.

The Moroccans continued to keep their feet better in the second half, and missed a great opportunity when Kalambay was caught out of goal and Abdel Kader muffed his shot. But in the final minutes Engelbert put on the pressure and scored a goal that was apparent to everyone except the referee. Tshinabu shot from point-blank range, and the ball went through the goal net, which had evidently been inadequately secured close to a post. In spite of Engelbert's furious protests, the referee refused to award a goal and gave a goal-kick instead.

FAR now became favourites to win on aggregate because of their ground advantage in the second leg. But for once their formidable defence, the basis of their championship victory, failed them. The full-backs played too square, and the half-backs, particularly, lacked anticipation. Engelbert took the lead in the 12th minute, a centre from Saidi converted spectacularly by Kala, and never looked like losing. They scored a second goal on the hour, a header by Tshinabu from Nyembo's curling centre, and even a goal from Bamous for FAR scarcely altered their superiority. Tshinabu scored Engelbert's third with the Moroccan defence again in confusion, and only some extraordinary lapses by Saidi and Kalala prevented a complete rout.

World Diary by Roger Macdonald

Congo-Kinshasha's triumph was complete when the Leopards, as the national side is called, beat Santos 3-2 at the beginning of the Brazilian club's African tour. Santos led 2-1 at half-time, Pelé scoring the first goal after 29 minutes with a fine, first-time shot from a cross by outside-right Manuel Maria. Adelair equalised in a goal-mouth mêlée, but Pelé got a second just before half-time with a solo run through the defence.

The professionals were expected to dominate the second half, but Kinshasha refused to be over-awed by their exalted opponents. Soon Lima gave away a free-kick and Kala made the score 2-2 with a beautiful header, and, 15 minutes from time, scored what proved to be the winning goal. The Santos captain, Lima, was pulled down in the penalty area just before the end, but the Congolese referee refused the plausible penalty. The celebrations continued for almost 24 hours at Kinshasha, with some serious consequences. One boy was badly hurt in a fall from a church steeple where he had been trying to fix a national team pennant, and some others were burned when they moved too close to a celebration bonfire.

SUSPENDED

The General Secretary of the Malawi FA, Harold Humphreys, has been suspended by chairman Sidney Chikapa and replaced by Mzandu, one of the council members. Mr. Humphreys, who had been secretary since March 1968, learnt of his suspension on returning from Blantyre with the Malawi national team. This was a reciprocal visit to one by the Rhodesian national side a few weeks earlier, which, according to the Malawi official party newspaper, had been arranged by the few non-African members of the Malawi FA.

The same report said that the views of the African members of the FA were constantly being over-ruled, and that the government felt that Malawi's visit to Rhodesia should have been cancelled. It seems that Rhodesia's unrelenting opposition to majority rule will keep their national side short of practice for their World Cup games next autumn, and may have cost Mr. Humphreys his job.

TRANSFER

The Slavia hotel in Belgrade was the scene recently of an unusual transfer. The Yugoslav international, Ivica Osim, signed a six-month contract with the Dutch Third Division club, Zwolze Boys.

It is worth £20,000—but the money goes to his Yugoslav club, Zeleznicar, in seven stages. The transfer fee has been put up by the Dutch side's wealthy president, Johanes Van Hock, who has signed an option worth £42,000 to Osim if he agrees to stay for another two years.

Osim is assured of his freedom on July 31 if Yugoslavia want him for their World Cup squad, and Zwolze have said he can play in any international without loss of earnings. But the contract seems too flexible to be true, and many Yugoslavs doubt whether their FA can enforce its important clauses.

A famous name from the past, Ricardo Zamora, reappeared recently in a Barcelona newspaper ... announcing his second marriage. Zamora, now a 67-year-old businessman, married one Pilar Galdiano at Barcelona, a few months after the death of his first wife. Zamora, of course, was first-choice goalkeeper for Spain over a 16-year period. He conceded only 42 goals in 46 matches, and was unbeaten in 20 of them. Seven of the goals, remember, were scored by England at Highbury in 1932 when Drake and the mud were too much for Zamora's nerves.

NEXT MONTH
Chris West interviews **CARLOS SARTORI** of Manchester United
Read his opinions of British soccer

ALAN HARDAKER, the Secretary of the Football League, is delighted with the results of the decision to use a computer to produce the Football League fixture list for the present season. Hitherto they had been compiled from a chart, invented by the late Mr. C. E. Sutcliffe, a former President of the Football League.

It was an important chart in a way that Mr. Sutcliffe himself could scarcely have contemplated since, when the football pools promoters jibbed at paying the Football League for the use of their fixtures for pools purposes, it was the chart and the method used in conjunction with it that the League was able to satisfy the courts as being matter that could be subject to copyright.

Once that was accepted it was less disputable that the pools had to pay some form of licence fee or a royalty for making use of copyright material. This is, of course, less cut-and-dried in respect of the FA's Cup matches which are arranged, not as a result of a fixture list based upon a chart that is the League's copyright, but by the *luck* of the draw—and luck is not copyright material!

The Football League have made it clear that the same information that was used in association with the "chart" is still fed into the computer, so no question of loss of copyright arises. What has changed is that a fortnight's "manual" work can now be done in a couple of days with Mr. Hardaker having the draft fixture list for this season in his possession three days after last season ended. A remarkable effort but still one that Mr. Hardaker seems to hope, if not expect, will be bettered again next season.

A computer can only, he has pointed out, act upon the information that is fed into it—but equally those who once compiled the fixture list "by hand" with the help of the chart, could only take note of special circumstances if the clubs concerned had informed them. Now clubs may even have more time for late thoughts—an important race meeting in their area that they might have wished to avoid or wanted to be associated with by an evening kick-off on the day of the race. Mr. Hardaker would probably prefer that all clubs did, as many must do, advise their special requirements in advance of the information being fed into the computer.

As it was, this was the first time that the Football League did not receive any official complaints from clubs about their fixtures—and that in a League of 92 clubs is remarkable.

The Football League's fixture list is less of a delight, however, to those of us who like to trace the progress of clubs in their national championships in a tidy sort of way. Throughout Western Europe and the Balkans the national league championships reached their half-way stages around the turn of the year—and at that stage, with rare exceptions, not only had each and every club played the same number of matches (half their total number of fixtures), each club had met every other club in the championship once (and once only, of course).

Moreover if, in Belgium, for example, Anderlecht had been at home to St. Trond in the opening match of the season, St. Trond would be at home to Anderlecht for the opening match of the second half of the season. If the leading two clubs in East Germany this season, Vorwarts and Hansa Rostock, meet (as they did) in the final match of the first half of the season, then one can predict with confidence that the same two clubs will be in opposition for the final match of the season.

Nothing is predictable in the First Division of the Football League when the opening round of matches are repeated not in the 22nd round but in the 33rd; when Liverpool entertain Southampton on December 3, 1968, in what should be the 40th match of the season (to be played by most other clubs early in April, 1969—but not QPR and Leeds, who played on January 24, 1969!). Nor can I ever recall a time when every First Division club played their 21st match of the season (their half-way stage) at the same time.

Arsenal forward Bobby Gould makes an unsuccessful tackle on Denis Law of Manchester United. (A)

Computer Solves Fixture Problems

THIS ENGLAND

by Gordon Jeffery

BASED

However, allowing for the fact that after each club had played 21 matches not one of them had in fact met each of their 21 rivals in the First Division, and that some only reached their 21st match when playing against a club who were playing their 23rd, this is the table based upon those first 21 matches.

	W	D	L	F	A	P
1. Liverpool	14	4	3	40	13	32
2. Leeds United	13	6	2	31	17	32
3. Everton	12	6	3	48	19	30
4. Arsenal	11	7	3	26	13	29
5. West Ham Utd	9	8	4	42	24	26
6. Chelsea	9	7	5	36	22	25
7. Tottenham	8	7	6	38	31	23
8. West Brom	9	5	7	33	36	23
9. Burnley	10	3	8	29	35	23
10. Sheffield Wed	7	8	6	25	26	22
11. Newcastle Utd	6	8	7	30	31	20
12. Manchester Un	6	8	7	25	28	20
13. Southampton	7	6	8	28	33	20
14. Wolverhampton	6	7	8	23	25	19
15. Sunderland	6	7	8	24	37	19
16. Manchester C	5	7	9	30	30	17
17. Ipswich	6	5	10	28	33	17
18. Stoke City	5	5	11	19	31	15
19. Nottingham For.	2	10	9	26	34	14
20. Coventry	3	6	12	19	35	12
21. Leicester C	3	6	12	18	42	12
22. Queen's Pk R	3	5	13	24	48	11

The merit of such a league table—imaginary as it is in some respects—is that a simple multiplication offers a fair assumption of the likely final situation, particularly in respect of the number of goals scored. No club without a second-half of the season improvement will reach a century of goals. Everton are the best contenders—needing only to maintain their first-half of the season rate and to score four additional goals. Next in the "high" scoring table are West Ham United but they need an uplift of 19 per cent in their rate to reach a century of First Division goals. Liverpool, the only other club to reach even 40 goals over their first 21 matches, would need an uplift of 20 per cent. The rest are nowhere. . . .

AVERAGE

At the other end of the scale, no fewer than three clubs have failed to average a goal a match—Stoke, Coventry and Leicester; whilst a majority of clubs, including leading championship contenders like Leeds and Arsenal, have failed to average one and a half goals per match!

It is a situation that invites concern about a "goal famine". Jim Manning of the *Daily Mail*, at the beginning of a week when I found myself (not by

any means for the first time) alternately hating and loving him (but never able to leave his piece unread whatever reading it did to my blood-pressure), was moved from his last word end column of the *Mail* and given the full width of the back page to bewail, behind a huge headline GOALS, the lack of them. It was coaching by the blackboard and the disappearance of individual stars that had caused the shortage, that was taken to also represent a decline in the standards of play. It was a similar addiction to planned football and a neglect of the star individuals that was ruining the England team—their very success in the World Cup had, it was implied, been more of a disadvantage than an incentive since it had encouraged clubs as a whole to introduce *systems*—mainly, of course, defensive ones.

RESTORED

A few days later (by which time Mr. Manning's comments at the Rugby Union's contortions over the introduction of more competitive play in their game had restored him to my favour!) there was a sort of follow-up item in his paper. This referred to the concern, shared by Alan Hardaker, that the preponderance of drawn matches seemed to be responsible for a decline in the amount of money invested on pools coupons, and that the Football League's percentage cut would thus be similarly reduced.

As a matter of fact I had a few doubts whether in fact there had been any appreciable increase in the number of drawn matches or whether the smaller individual dividends on the pools were the result of more "block-perming" by syndicates. So far as the First Division at any rate is concerned the first half of the season has produced an exceptional number of drawn matches with one club (Nottingham Forest) drawing almost half of their first 21 matches and approximately four out of every 11 matches ending with the scores equal.

The suggestion in the *Mail*'s story (really, as I noted, following up the earlier one about the decline of the game as witness the lower scoring rate) was that the increase in the number of drawn matches was also a consequence of defensive systems and the shortage of goals. This is not, of course, entirely true. Mention a drawn match and I suppose most of us think first of a goalless one (many of which, let me hasten to add, I have enjoyed) but of the matches drawn in the First Division over this first half of the season, less than one-third resulted in a score of 0-0. More than half were 1-1—not, at two goals per match, a good scoring rate, of course (last year's overall First Division rate was 3.02 goals per match) but not a goal-famine. And there were those drawn matches (nearly one-sixth of them) where four goals were shared and a couple where six goals were shared.

There is nonetheless a connection between the number of goals scored and the increase in the number of drawn matches. Where I differ from many who bewail the smaller number of goals being scored is that I do not equate this with a decline in the standard of play. At its simplest, perhaps ridiculous, level, this would mean that the standard of play was higher in the First Divisions of countries like Northern Ireland and Luxembourg, who were the two with the highest rate last season, than in those of the Soviet Union and Italy who were the two with the lowest scoring rates!

The real divergence of opinion is whether, as indeed Mr. Manning claimed in his piece, the object of the game is to score goals — full-stop. I disagree — I take the object of the game to be to score more goals than your opponents. It is true that many clubs have a slightly different interpretation — that the object is to concede less goals than your opponents. But that would only be entirely alien to the game's intentions if there were no merit in good defensive play.

Personally I think that I would soon feel dissatisfied watching football where the goals abounded because of poor play and there was a vast disparity in standards between the top and the bottom clubs. The truth is that in England, thanks to the "blackboard" or, as I prefer to think of it, to a more intelligent approach to each match, the gap between top and bottom is constantly narrowing — not because the top standard is diminishing but because the bottom one is improving.

The increased number of drawn matches is an obvious indication of a decreased disparity. It is a single additional goal scored—or a single "goal" saved, that makes the difference between success and failure. I plotted, from those match results that made up my earlier first half of the season table, the difference if each of the last 11 clubs had scored one more goal in each of their matches against those in the top half. Or, conversely, if each of the top 11 had conceded one more goal in each match played against those in the bottom half—such that draws turned into wins for the bottom half clubs, odd-goal defeats into draws.

No change when the margin of defeat or victory was by more than a single goal — as would often be the case in leagues of considerable disparity between top and bottom standards. The new table that would emerge (with the gain or loss in points shown in parenthesis) is revealing enough without further interpretation:

		Pts.
1.	Liverpool (−3)	29
2.	Manchester U (+6)	26
3.	Leeds (−7)	25
	Everton (−5)	25
	Wolves (+6)	25
6.	Sunderland (+5)	24
	Ipswich (+7)	24
8.	Southampton (+3)	23
	Stoke (+6)	23
10.	Chelsea (−3)	22
	Manchester C (+5)	22
	Nottingham F (+8)	22
13.	West Bromwich (−2)	21
14.	Arsenal (−9)	20
15.	West Ham Utd (−7)	19
	Coventry (+3)	19
17.	Burnley (−5)	18
18.	Tottenham (−6)	17
19.	Leicester (+4)	16
20.	Newcastle (−5)	15
21.	Queen's Park R (+3)	14
	Sheffield Wed (−8)	14

Jimmy Husband and Joe Royle (9) of First Division top goalscorers Everton are outnumbered by Southampton defenders at Goodison Park. (A)

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England heading for trouble?

WITH the 1970 World Cup now considerably less than 18 months away any assessment of England's chances of retaining the Jules Rimet trophy must surely be pessimistic. Playing at home with all the natural advantages that accrue to a team playing before its own fans is a vastly different proposition from playing on the other side of what is—realistically a hostile world. Even at home against rather ordinary opposition provided recently by Bulgaria and Rumania England have hardly looked convincing. The rearguard was barely tested and the attack, blunted it seems during the last two years, lacks cohesion.

by **ERIC BATTY**

Too much is still being made of the "missed chances", although in the recent clash with Rumania an inept defence did in fact do their very best to set up shooting positions for England. The best chance seen at Wembley for two years was given to Roger Hunt—created exclusively by the Rumanians—but that ended, not altogether surprisingly, in the side netting.

Right at the heart of England's problems it seems to me is the unbelievable conception that they have an absolute copyright on their 4-4-2 tactical system and that all who come against them should sportingly throw everything into attack. It is this conception which has led to the belief in the "avalanche" of goals that will hit someone one of these days. But now in 1969 it must be recognised that everyone is playing cautiously and if momentarily the opposition does break out in possession, they will very promptly rebuild their rearguard as soon as possession is lost.

This is the essence of the modern game and if we find it unentertaining we must still accept the fact that as things look now, it will be some time before this basic approach to the game is changed.

The best chance of this in the near future would come if the 1970 World Cup were to be won by a skilful and intelligent team which set out to dominate the ball and control midfield. Only then is it at all likely that world opinion will swing away from the current conception of defend and counter-attack. It will be clear now that before England can even hope to record their "avalanche" it will be necessary to be soundly beaten in Mexico.

It should be clear to everyone that the days have long since passed when seven or eight goals can be scored in one game. Even the minnows, like Luxembourg, Denmark and Rumania, are packing their penalty area and in these conditions goals will only result from one of three circumstances:

1. Luck.
2. A glaring defensive mistake.
3. Brilliant forward play.

Having no authority to order defensive errors and no copyright on good fortune the only logical approach would be to produce a high quality attack in which the combined abilities to create shooting positions is paramount.

When one remembers that the ultimate aim is Mexico where local conditions will be all against the vigorous, all-action, counter-punching teams, this policy is doubly necessary, but if one takes the England line-up against Rumania as the latest indication of current policy it becomes clear that the England aim is no more than a rejuvenated 1966 model.

In every sense, a pre-match appraisal of the England team against Rumania brought the word "strong" to the minds of everyone. Stiles, Jack Charlton, Hunter, Radford and Hunt are formidable, but hardly the class players that England so desperately needs.

Underlying the attitude of disbelief that has dominated the thinking of the English press (and the fans) in the last few years was the manner in which Simeonov's display for Bulgaria was received. This young man had the affrontery to "save" two of Bobby Charlton's blockbusters!

The Rumanians were thought by several critics, with whom I am acquainted, to "be slightly better than the Bulgarians". This I am sure was a reflection only of their disappointment, for in my opinion the Bulgarians were several grades better than the men from Bucharest. In everything the Bulgarians did there was an emphasis on skill.

JIMMY GREAVES. (Prov)

Disguised

True, it was disguised by their obvious determination to seek a draw if it was at all possible, and at no time in the game did they push more than three or four men deep into the England half.

The ease with which Asparoukhov created a goal from nothing early in the game was indicative of the Bulgarians' basic skill and had Yakimov ever elected to move out of bottom gear these two could have conjured up all kinds of problems.

It is clear, however, that in this period the freedom to experiment must still be granted to the England manager. With nothing at stake in a series of unofficial matches this is the time to experiment with new faces. To do so later will be too late.

Little more than a year from now FIFA will require the names of the 40 and the feature which I find most disturbing is the absence of any new players who will be able to add something to the team effort. During the last World Cup for example England were forced by circumstances to make changes—gambling on players who were not in fact first choice. Vicente Feola did this in similar circumstances back in 1958 and digging deep into his bag of reserves he produced Pele and Garrincha. Three years ago Hurst and Peters were standing by, willing and very able when Ramsey called . . . but who is there now standing in the wings?

Bring back Greaves? Revert to playing with a winger (Thompson?) or two wingers?

The real problem is the fact that the manner in which the game is played in England is diametrically opposed to the needs of the England squad. Power, pace and stamina are the pre-requisites at club level, while the England need is for skill, intelligence, the awareness of players moving into space and the ability to pop the ball around accurately first time.

DEREK WALLIS
says

HIBERNATION OVER

FOOTBALL in Eastern Europe is about to emerge from its hibernation to remind the advocates of a European League of just one of the many problems to be solved before the international competition, which to some seems to be the next logical step in the game's progress, can be considered seriously.

Difficulties concerning the withdrawal of clubs from their domestic leagues, promotion and relegation and financial considerations are possibly not insurmountable.

But nobody can compete with the weather that makes football impossible in Eastern Europe and Scandinavia while in most countries in the West the game continues to flourish despite the usual hazards of winter.

Blankets

Thirty-one countries compete in the European Cup. Of these 14 play either a March to November season or have a mid-winter shutdown when snow blankets every football pitch.

This is why there is usually a break in the European competitions from December to March unless opposing clubs share the same season and can make their own arrangements.

Russia, Hungary, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland all play from spring to the start of winter. Eight other countries, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Austria, Switzerland, Rumania, Poland and East Germany, all have a halfway shutdown during the worst winter months.

This means, for example, that Ferencvaros (Hungary) could not be expected to play a European League match against, say, Benfica (Portugal) in their out-of-season month of January and neither could Manchester United be put in the position of having to play Kiev Dynamo (Russia) in the English close season.

Two years ago Prince Rainier of Monaco invited representatives of some of the leading clubs to his home to talk about the future of international competition. Discussions on the possible formation of a European League were said to be favourable.

To the best of my knowledge, though, nobody was able to solve the problem of a standard season—assuming that the proposal was probed in such depth.

It could be argued that a uniform season would result if the Western countries had a mid-winter break. Football in Britain, West Germany, France, Holland and Belgium for instance can often be reduced to a lottery because clubs have to play in conditions that can change rapidly and violently.

Alan Hardaker, secretary of the English Football League, dismisses any suggestion of a shutdown firmly and logically when he says: "If anyone can tell us when the worst of our winter will begin and end then we'll consider a shutdown. But our weather is so unpredictable that we might be closed down during mild weather and start playing again in a deep freeze.

"In Eastern Europe the situation is different. They know almost to within 24 hours when the winter will start and when it will finish."

Proposed

The attempt by UEFA to reorganise the European Cup is interpreted in some quarters as a step in the direction of a league competition. I prefer to believe though that the grouping system proposed would give the clubs, particularly those who are unlikely to make an impact in the competition, greater opportunities to taste the financial fruits involved.

Each club would be guaranteed at least six matches, three at home and three away, instead of half of the entries being eliminated in the first round on the sudden death principle.

Clearly some system of seeding would have to be devised so that smaller teams would not qualify for the eight quarter-final places at the expense of more attractive clubs.

This in turn would eliminate giant-killing, though this is unlikely to cause an uproar because the history of the European competitions shows that major upsets such as this season's defeat of Manchester City by Fenerbahce are few and far between.

Notified

UEFA have forestalled criticism of their proposal by drawing up a list of pre-arranged dates for all the European competitions in season 1970-71. The idea is that by notifying the national associations in advance the risk of clashes with international dates is avoided.

Questions were asked immediately about how the extra matches involved in the European Cup and Cup Winners Cup could be squeezed in where clubs are heavily committed already in domestic competitions.

UEFA anticipated and answered them promptly by using the Fairs Cup, which has an extra round already, as as example.

The first two rounds of the European Cup and the Cup Winners Cup will, if the proposal is adopted, be played in 1970 on September 16 and 30 and October 21 and November 4. The Fairs Cup would also use these dates with the third and extra round being played on November 25 and December 9.

To allow for the midwinter break in many countries the quarter-finals of all three competitions would be played on March 10 and 24, 1971, with the semi-finals on April 10 and 24.

By using a set of pre-arranged dates like these the extra round involved by grouping could be made convenient for all the competing clubs.

Almost inevitably there would be difficulties and differences but these have cropped up from time to time ever since European competitions began.

English clubs have had more than their share because of the crowded domestic programme. Leeds United, the Fairs Cup holders, have so often been involved in fixture jams that they are now thoroughly experienced in sorting them out. So if Leeds can do it so can other clubs with similar problems.

The system of grouping may be regarded with suspicion by those who see it as a foot in the door towards a full-scale European League. It is in fact nothing of the sort but merely an attempt to give all competing clubs a chance to spend half a season in Europe and to benefit from the financial rewards that are so often denied them by early dismissal.

● *Continued from page 33*

January, with its fogs and cup ties, its sheets of grey, heavy rain assailing the bleak stadium, gave way to February, to March, to spring, the Cup Final, and the terminal evening games; the pitches brown and grassless, mud flats with a fringe of green. Then it was summer, and hiatus; foreign tours, transfers, practice matches; a process as regular as the seasons themselves.

United opened the new championship with a home match, which I went to report. Inside the car park, Freeman met me. "*He*-llo, Brian. Heard the one about the two Jewish hairdressers?" I listened, tried to laugh, then I saw Greenberg, getting out of a Daimler, the vice-chairman's Daimler, still awkward as an ostrich. Raincoated as always, he stood for a moment in the sunshine, there in the middle of the car park, peering dimly round. Yet there was something in the stance of the absurd, thin body, something in the poise of the head on its meagre neck, which suggested he was not looking for people, but rather looking round a new domain.

It was only when his gaze reached Freeman that it paused, then fell and, clumsily, he turned away.

"Didn't you know?" asked Freeman, as we watched the tall, stooped figure moving, with the vice-chairman, towards the official entrance. His right hand held a programme out to me, thumb agitating on the front cover, and there, beneath the pyramid of directors' names, I saw the new one: L. B. Greenberg.

ROUND THE WORLD STORIES

ITALY

WITH the pressures of the FA and the Government still mounting in a bid to restore economic security to the Italian game, Fiorentina and Cagliari serve to illustrate that economy and success are not diametrically opposed even in Italy.

Promoted to Serie A for the first time in 1964, Cagliari has the support of all Sardinia and operating on what is a shoestring by comparison with the giants of Milano and Torino, they have topped the table for several weeks and are still there at the start of the second half of the programme.

Fiorentina are in second place after embarking on an economy campaign last summer. Trimming their professional staff to only 18 players they are six points ahead of free-spending Juventus, who laid out more than £600,000 last year on new players.

Champions AC Milan have conceded only six goals in 16 games, but their attack is causing serious concern to *allenatore* Nereo Rocco. At home to Palermo they won by the "minimum" with a goal scored by last season's top scorer Pierino Prati—his first goal for ten weeks. Juventus too are having a lean time, and after being held at home to a 1-1 draw by bottom-of-the-table Sampdoria, a large number of Turin fans waited outside the ground to jeer coach Heriberto Herrera.

At the time of writing Helenio Herrera has practically conquered Rome. Even after a 3-1 defeat at home to Torino (Nestor Combin scored twice) the prestige of HH remains high and current talk revolves around a new two-year contract and the necessary millions to buy new forwards.

Drawing 2-2 away to Atalanta in Bergamo, Roma were awarded both points for a technical 2-0 win because the crowd twice attempted to invade the pitch. With a point per game, Roma now occupy sixth place in the table and recently held Fiorentina to 0-0 in Florence.

MEXICO

PROLONGED by continual breaks for international matches the 1968 championship is now drawing to a close and Guadalajara—the traditional champions and favourites six months ago—appear to have slipped up badly almost at the last hurdle. Beaten at home by new leaders Cruz Azul and then humbled 2-1 by Universidad before 80,000 at the Aztec stadium, they trail by four points with only two games left.

After a spring tour of Europe in April and May the new championship will begin in June and certainly be completed by December to allow the national squad to prepare for the *Mundial* five months later.

Under a long-standing agreement between FA president Guillermo Canedo and the clubs, the Mexican World Cup squad are to take part as a club team in the 1969 Division One championship. The "dream" of all national coaches, this is the brain child of FA coach Ignacio Trelles and could lead to the resignations of Señor Canedo and Trelles if the plan is torpedoed.

This seems more than likely, for a majority of clubs are said to have withdrawn their support. The players, many of whom are married and do not relish the idea of being away from their families and businesses for the best part of a year, are amongst the critics, and the clubs are disturbed at "estimated" costs of keeping the squad of 18 players together until June 1970.

According to figures that have been leaked from the Mexican FA expenses will be around £16,000 per month to pay the players and keep them in a luxury hotel near Toluca.

CF Veracruz have proposed an interesting amendment to the league rules which if accepted would make drawn matches impossible. Arguing that the pursuit of one point leads to a negative approach, Veracruz propose playing all league games to a result. Extra time is suggested and would be followed by a series of penalty kicks if necessary!

FRANCE

THE furore which followed the World Cup defeat against Norway resulted in the resignation of the FA Council *en bloc* and is still having repercussions weeks later.

New FA President M. Jacques Georges invited two former players, Raymond Kopa and Michel Hidalgo, to sit on the new council and later they were appointed to "supervise" the preparation of the national team which will, for the moment, continue to be chosen by M. Louis Dugauguez.

Kopa, still regarded in some quarters as a "traitor" for refusing to play for France under the negative régime of Henri Guerin, and his former Reims colleague Hidalgo, have both been President of the Players Union and are expected to contribute a great deal within the new framework.

As a gesture of good will towards the new ruling body the Players Union have now withdrawn their objections to the recently signed agreement to advertise a

Heriberto Herrera, manager of Juventus, is given a police escort after a training session. Angry supporters had gathered to jeer him. (UPI)

variety of goods on players' shirts and in return the FFF have agreed in principle to "free" the professional players from the slave clause in the retain and tansfer regulations.

With the approval of the FFF the Union will now take the matter up in court with the ruling body pledged to accept the decision. This virtually means the end of football's special rights in the labour market. In any other field workers are free to choose their own employers subject only to the restrictions contained in freely negotiated contracts of fixed duration. This will put an end to £100,000 plus transfers; give the players a considerably increased income . . . and inevitably spread to other professional countries.

The summit clash between Saint Etienne and the leading contenders Bordeaux pulled in a crowd of 30,000 and provided a fine game. Saint Etienne won 3-2 after being two down early on with goals from Keita, Revelli and Fefeu. Later the Saints went down 3-0 away to former champions Nantes but thrashed the third club in the table Rouen by 5-1 and are still leading Bordeaux by a point.

SPAIN

IN spite of losing right-half Pirri for several months with a fractured leg, Real Madrid are still unbeaten with only 11 games to play and almost certain to clinch yet another championship. Las Palmas, runners-up last season, recently beat third placed CFB in Barcelona, but even they trail eight points behind Real.

With the ban on foreign-born players really beginning to pinch after several years, there has been a steady levelling down process. No longer are CF Barcelona, Valencia and the two Madrid clubs assured of a good season automatically through their wealth. To illustrate the effects of this process, eliminate the top three clubs and the bottom two and it will be seen that only four points separate the entire field.

Threatened by relegation Real Zaragoza called up Cesar Rodriguez who coached them to victory in the Fairs Cup five years ago. Under Cesar there has been a slight improvement but the club are not out of danger yet with only luckless Cordoba beneath them. Cordoba sacked their manager Fernando Argila back in November and appointed in his stead the former Barcelona star Ladislav Kubala.

Dr. Eduado Toba, a hero when he was in charge of the Spanish Amateur XI, is said to be out of his depth as *entrenadore* of the full A squad and appears certain to be dismissed if Spain fail to eliminate Belgium and Yugoslavia from the World Cup.

Preparing for the clash with Belgium in Liege, Dr. Toba flew to see the Standard-Anderlecht clash at the Stade de Sclessin to cast an eye over the individuals who will line up against him.

Later, his possibles beat Division II club Murcia 5-0 in a training game but Barcelona stopper Gallego hit three of the goals and the attack did not play well.

VLADIMIR PONOMAREV. (A)

The absence of talented forwards is endorsed by most of the league encounters and a glance at the scorers list. Amancio (Real Madrid) scored ten in the first few games but has since added only two goals to his tally. His only rival is Sebastian Fleita of Malaga who, being Paraguayan, is not eligible for Dr. Toba's team.

RUSSIA

WITH newspapers and magazines throwing their columns open to fans with ideas for the reformation of the Russian game, the FA scotched everyone by producing their own programme. This has yet to be approved by the FA but promoted by the President, Valentin Granatkine, it can be regarded as a mere formality.

The major objective is to trim the time spent travelling to and from league matches and to this end the First Division will be reduced from 20 clubs to 17 for the 1970 campaign. This year will be yet another transitional season in the Russians' biannual search for an ideal formula.

For the 1969 campaign the 20 top-class clubs will be divided into two geographical zones roughly east and west of the Urals. After two 18-match mini-leagues the top seven will join up, retaining the points already gained in their respective sections and play off phase two amongst themselves for the championship.

The remaining six will then take part in a "promotion" competition with the leading Second Division teams for three additional places in the First Division of 1970.

Gavril Katchaline, back in command of the national squad, has been forgiven for his failure in the 1962 World Cup in Chile. Planning a new campaign for the 1970 series Katchaline published a list of 27 names of players who will form his squad at the start of the present season. Five men, Khurtsilava, Ponomarev, Afonin, Metreveli and Chesternev, were all with him in 1962 but the average age of the squad has dipped to 24.

Amongst the notable omissions are "Footballer of the Year" Eduard Streltzov and Malofeev, Serebrainikov and Yashin who topped a poll amongst Division One managers in the goalkeeping department.

One of the most promising players on Katchaline's list is Berador Abduraimov, who topped the scorers list last season with 22 goals for Pahktachor Taschkent. Transferred to CSKA, the Moscow Army club, Abduraimov also gets an early trip to South America which is a far cry from Uzbekistan.

WEST GERMANY

THE suspension of 20-goal Gerdi Müller, centre-forward of Bayern Munchen, has reopened the championship race after it had seemed that Bayern would coast home. Into the reckoning after Bayern began to drop points in all directions came Borussia Munchengladbach, Eintracht Braunschweig (champions in 1967) and the revitalised VfB Stuttgart.

If Bayern fail to reassert themselves once Müller is back in action from February 8 the most likely beneficiary will be Braunschweig who are unbeaten since October and have not conceded a single goal in the last eight games.

Max Merkel and reigning champions FC Nurnberg appear to be in great danger of relegation to the Regional-Liga Sud. Any suggestion of such a catastrophe this time last year would have been written off as ridiculous but when Merkel took over the club in the middle of the 1966-67 campaign they were seriously threatened.

At home to newly promoted Offenbach Kickers, Nurnberg were held to 2-2 and since then they have spent a month in bottom place. While Offenbach seem to have pulled away from immedite danger, Schalke 04, Eintracht Frankfurt and the other *newling*, Hertha BSC, have slipped into the lowest places.

Nurnberg recently boosted their home attendance by issuing 5,000 free tickets to school-children, but the relegation issue will be settled one way or the other very soon and for the Bundesliga's highest paid coach with a four-year contract, it will be a severe test.

Merkel's assistant, former Austrian international inside-forward Alfred Korner, recently announced he would be leaving at the end of the season. This probably has no reflection on the club or its future, for Korner's destination is SC Rapid, his old club, where he will be coach under Karl Rappan from July 1.

DISTANCE A VITAL FACTOR

from *COLIN JOSE*

THE distance most European clubs are required to travel in order to play an away fixture in their own league is usually quite small and causes very few problems except in adverse weather conditions.

For example, the greatest distance between any of England's 92 League clubs is the 370 odd miles from Plymouth to Newcastle, while the incidence of two or more clubs in the same city is quite high.

Contrast this with the Western Canada Soccer League, which operates across the vast areas of the Canadian West and travelling becomes a major factor in each and every decision taken.

Two of the clubs, Winnipeg and Vancouver, are separated by 1,500 miles of prairie and mountains, while the closest club to Vancouver is Calgary, a mere 675 miles away. Compared to this the other clubs are next-door neighbours—Regina and Winnipeg are 353 miles apart, Regina and Edmonton 486, Saskatoon and Calgary 392. The Saskatchewan clubs Regina and Saskatoon are the closest to one another, the distance just 160 miles.

Only in Russia are there such vast distances separating teams in the same league, for example it is over 2,000 miles from Leningrad to Tashkent and close to the same distance between Tashkent and Kiev.

The Western Canada Soccer League (WCSL) was formed in December of 1962 when four teams from Edmonton—Hungaria, Excelsior, Rangers and Edelweiss, two from Regina—Concordia and Internationals, two from Saskatoon—Concordia and Hollandia and one from Lethbridge—Hungaria met. Calgary were not at the meeting but were accepted at a later date.

In its first season of operation each team played ten games, with Regina Concordia winning the championship without losing a single game. In the cup competition held after the completion of the league, Lethbridge Hungaria beat Regina Concordia 1-0 in the final to win the Molson Challenge Cup.

The following season, 1964, Lethbridge withdrew and their place was taken by Calgary Atco. Regina Concordia once again won the championship and this time also added the challenge cup. In both seasons their centre-forward, John Schepers, won the scoring championship.

Due to one of those protracted disputes which are the bane of North American soccer the WCSL did not operate in the summer of 1965, but in December of that year at a meeting held in Saskatoon at which the president of the Canadian Soccer Football Association Bill Simpson and the secretary George Anderson were present the differences were settled.

At the meeting it was decided to restrict the entries to one team per city and the effect has been to raise the standard of play. In 1966 the league was made up of Edmonton Canadians, Calgary Kickers, Regina Concordia and Saskatoon City, with the Edmonton Canadians winning the championship and the Calgary Kickers taking the Challenge Cup.

For the 1967 season Winnipeg Internationals were added to the membership, but once again Edmonton Canadians won the Woodward Trophy, emblematic of the championship, and the cup once again went to Calgary, who beat Saskatoon City in the final.

Honours

Last season the honours went to Calgary, for in addition to a fine run in the league they held a strong Dortmund Borussia team to a 4-2 score when the Germans toured Canada and the United States, quite a remarkable performance for an amateur team.

For 1969 the league is looking ahead and received a big shot in the arm when a team from Vancouver applied for membership. The WCSL had been trying to get a Vancouver entry ever since they started and when the Vancouver Royals pulled out of the North American Soccer League the way was open.

A group of Vancouver businessmen who were interested in soccer got together and backed by people with soccer experience obtained a franchise at the league's annual meeting in Winnipeg last November, after obtaining permission from the British Columbia Soccer Commission.

Heading the Vancouver entry is John Pickburn, the former general manager of the Royals, while Peter Dinsdale the ex-Huddersfield Town player and coach of Canada's national team will be the club's manager-coach, with the former West Bromwich Albion full-back Bobby Cram as assistant coach. Both Cram and Dinsdale have made their homes in Vancouver. The club will be known as the "Spartans".

Peter Dinsdale.

Expenses

This year's WCSL will be divided between east and west in order to reduce travelling expenses as much as possible, and included in the Eastern Section will be Regina, Saskatoon and Winnipeg, while the Western Section will consist of Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver. Three teams per section is hardly the ideal set-up but here distance and money dictates.

Each team will play the other teams in its section four times, twice at home and twice away from home; they will also play the members of the other section on two occasions, once at home and once on the road, making a total number of fourteen games each.

To further reduce travelling costs Winnipeg and Vancouver, the outsiders geographically speaking, will play their three away games with the other section on long weekends.

Bearing in mind distance, cost and the fact that attendances are not too large as yet, the league has completed some nifty fixture-making designed to keep each club's travel bill, including hotels and meals for 15 people to within the region of $5,000.

The season will open on the first weekend in May and close with the final game of the play-offs on September 1. The reason for such a short season being, of course, the weather which on the prairies can hardly be relied upon for soccer outside of these months.

CLASSIFIED RESULTS

DECEMBER 17

Argentina (1) 1 (Savoy)
Poland (0) 0

Argentina: Andrada; Malbernat, Ovide; Tardivo, Pascutini, Rogel; Savoy (Olmedo), Minnitti, Silva, Aguirre, Avallay (Fischer).

Poland: Gelola; Anczok, Wilczek; Jarosik, Szadkowski, Musial; Smijewski, Dejna (Sadek), Szoltysik, Blaut, Gadocha.

DECEMBER 18

Brazil (1) 3 (Carlos Alberto, Pele, Vava) 40,000
Yugoslavia (1) 3 (Spasovski, Djajic, Bukal)

Brazil: Picasso (Alberto); Carlos Alberto, Everaldo; Rivelinho (Dirceu Lopes), Jurandir (Scala), Dias; Luis Carlos, Gerson, Tostao, Pele, Edu (Vava).

Yugoslavia: Curkovic; Cvek, Dojcinovski; Pavlovic, Holcer, Belin; Spasovski, Acimovic, Multic, Djajic, Bukal.

DECEMBER 22

Argentina (0) 1 (Olmedo)
Yugoslavia (1) 1 (Musemic)

Argentina: Andrada; Malbernat, Nelson Lopez; Tardivo, Pascutini, Rogel; Gonzalez (Minnitti), Aguirre, Silva (Olmedo), Veglio, Fischer.

Yugoslavia: Curkovic; Cvek, Dojcinovski; Pavlovic, Holcer, Belin (Multic); Spasovski, Acimovic, Musemic (Bukal), Asimovich, Djajic.

DECEMBER 29

Tunisia (0) 0 40,000
Algeria (0) 0

Tunisia: Attouga; Zouaoui, Benzarti; Larousi, Habecha, M'Gherbi; Chalbi, Cheman, Belbhith, Douiri, Chakrou.

Algeria: Abrouk; Bellouif, Haddi; Salem, Tayeb (Tahar), Hadefi; Natouri, Mekloufi, Lekkak, Laimas, Ben Tahar (Selimi).

JANUARY 1

Mexico (1) 2 (Borja, Gonzalez) 90,000
Italy (0) 3 (Riva 2, Anastasi)

Mexico: Calderon; Vantolra, Perez; Gonzalez, Sanchez Galindo, Nunez; Albino, Borja, Cisneros, Diaz, Padilla.

Italy: Zoff; Burgnich, Facchetti; Bertini, Rosato, Castano; Domenghini, De Sisti, Anastasi, Rivera, Riva.

JANUARY 5

Mexico (0) 1 (Padilla) 65,000
Italy (0) 1 (Bertini)

Mexico: Mota; Vantolra, Perez; Gonzalez, Sanchez Galindo, Nunez; Morales, Borja, Cisneros, Diaz, Padilla.

Italy: Albertosi; Burgnich, Facchetti; Bertini, Anquilletti, Malatrasi; Prati, Merlo, Anastasi, De Sisti, Riva.

Mexico (2) 3 (Sandvad o.g., Jensen M. o.g., Cisneros)
Denmark (0) 0

Mexico: Mota; Vantolra, Perez; Gonzalez, Pena, Sanchez Galindo; Albino, Borja, Cisneros, Diaz, Pereda (Horacio).

Denmark: Engedahl; Larsen, Jensen (M.); Sandvad, Kristiansen, Enemark; Priest, Holmstrom, Sorensen, Jensen (B.), Printzlau.

JANUARY 15

England (1) 1 (Charlton J.) 80,000
Rumania (0) 1 (Dumitrache)

England: Banks; Wright, McNab; Stiles, Charlton (J.), Hunter; Radford, Hunt, Charlton (R.), Hurst, Ball.

Rumania: Gornea; Satmareanu, Boc; Deleanu, Anca, Dinu; Dembrovski, Domide, Dumitrache, Nunweiler, Lucescu.

South American Commentary

● *Continued from page 15*

Racing replied only twice through Martinoli and Perfumo.

River at home to San Martin made no mistake—5-1 winners, but Boca surrendered their chance of the championship (but not entirely that of getting the South American Cup as runners-up) by losing to Independiente. Thus with one match to play—and River and Racing meeting each other—the position was that those two clubs lead with 21 points and Velez had twenty. A win for either River or Racing would ensure the championship but a win by Velez would put them ahead of the loser of the big match.

In fact the big two drew, Velez won (2-0 against Huracan) and all three shared top place with 22 points! At this point Velez, thanks to that 11-0 rout of Bahia Blanca, had the best goal average (39-14) compared with River's 35-15 and Racing's 29-15, but a play-off tournament between the three was arranged. It was not conclusive in terms of points with Velez and River drawing with each other and each beating Racing, but it settled the Copa Libertadores de America participation with Velez the champions, River the runners-up—and, of course, Estudiantes re-appearing as the title-holders. But how startling it is to see the 'world' club champions missing bottom place by a single point and with the record of 15 played, three won, one drawn, 11 lost, 12 goals for and 26 against. Are Velez, River, Racing, Boca, Rosario Central, Colon, Los Andes, San Lorenzo, Huracan, Independiente, Belgrano from Cordoba, Lanus and the aforementioned Independiente Rivadavia, *all* better than Estudiantes? Or did the La Plata club relax to the point of inertia after their victory over Manchester United?

Certainly by their final matches they were fielding a team that bore little resemblance to the one that won the title. Against San Lorenzo the week after the defeat by Racing and the expulsion of Malbernat and Veron, this was Estudiantes' line-up: Gabriel Flores; Forteis, Spadoro, Aguirre Suarez, Fucceneco; Cremasco, Pachame, Eduardo Flores; Ribaudo, Crife and Zibecchi.

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IMPORT OR PERISH?

from ANDREW DETTRE

YOU, too, can have plenty of fun in Aussie soccer if you get used to the Orwellian "doublethink" that confronts you here. In Sydney, for example, all leading clubs like to make periodical announcements about their dedication to a youth policy which they are about to implement soon, sparing no effort or expense. Then, pronto—they turn around and import a batch of players, usually from Britain.

Sydney's Pan Hellenic, a Greek-sponsored club, broke all records earlier this year by importing no less than 16 players from the UK, taking the "Bring Out a Briton" slogan to an insane extreme. The club's secretary, likeable Alex Georgiou, was sent on this mission impossible late last year, with clear orders to recruit anybody he could. And he could, the sum total of 17 players, 13 of which are forwards and the vast majority of them from nondescript, non-league, non-clubs. . . . A few of them have already arrived and one, amazingly enough, has made a big splash in his first match, scoring the winning goal for his team. He is tall schoolteacher Arthur Thomas who, a few years ago, starred for Linfield in Northern Ireland and even played in a European Cup series.

Of course, Pan Hellenic is not the only club that keeps importing players even if they do things in bulk. St. George-Budapest have brought out a new coach from Europe, Ferenc Arok, 37, who was until December trainer of Vojvodina in Yugoslavia. Arok will stay for two years, and at present he is the only full-time coach engaged by Sydney First Division clubs.

Polonia, a small struggling club experiencing meagre support from an ethnic minority, hope to join the re-importing act by bringing back, after an absence of five years, Joseph Galeczka, a brilliant little forward who once played for them. On his return to Poland, Galeczka joined Zaglebie Sosnowiecz and gained several caps, including one against England at Wembley.

The truth is that clubs still find it much easier to import ready-made players than to make them locally. Usually those who concentrate on grooming local talent have either no overseas connections or lack the necessary finance; this gives them a righteous stance. Until, of course, somehow they lay their hands on a few dollars—and bring out a couple of players from Britain. . . .

The months of January and February are occupied by the traditional pre-season tournaments all over Australia, sponsored by Ampol, the large oil company. The championships will start only towards the end of March, when the weather cools down a bit, but still reaching levels that Londoners would call a heat-wave.

A Melbourne Hakoah forward and the Sydney Prague goalkeeper enacted this scene recently in an Australian Cup semi-final. (AD)

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